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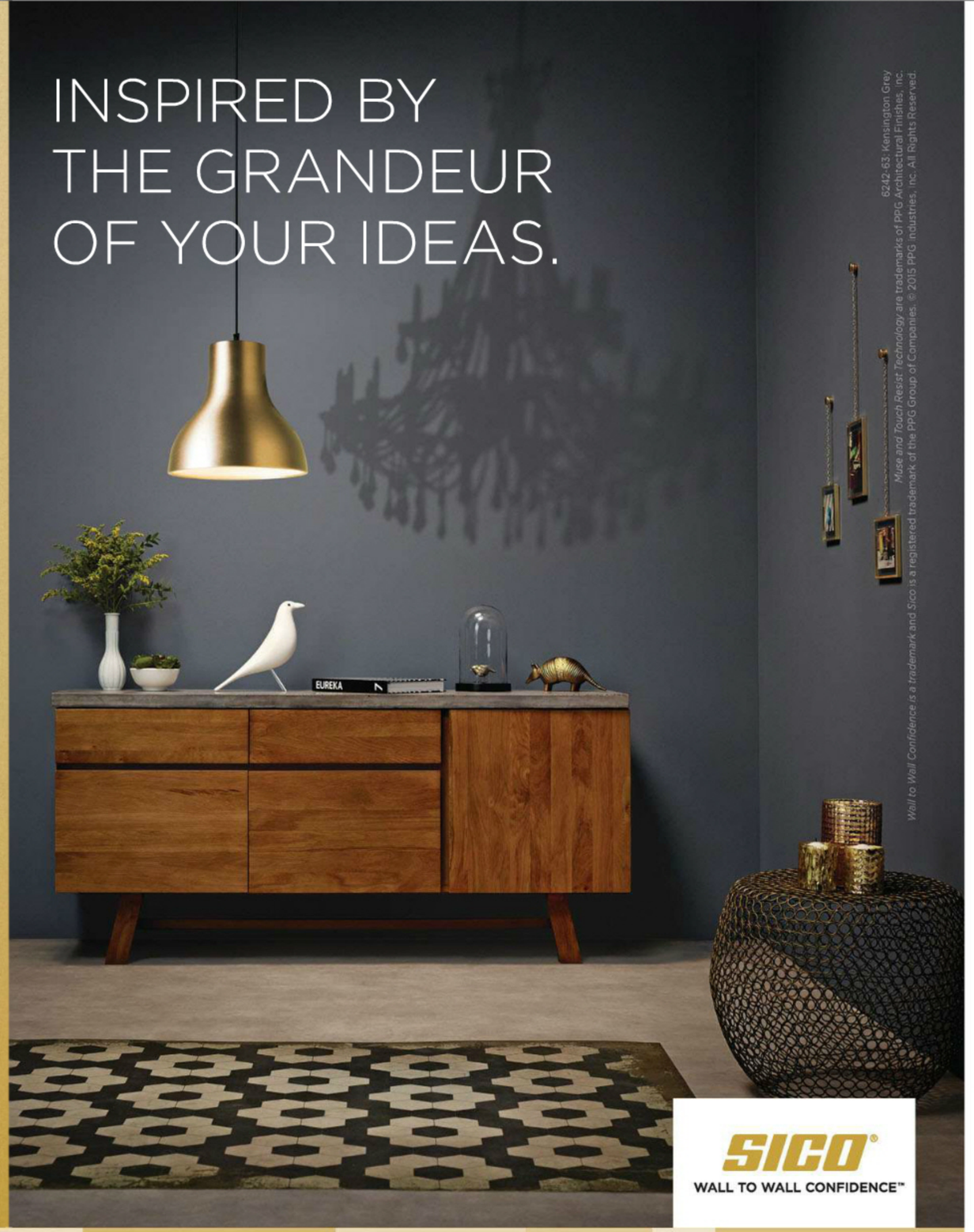

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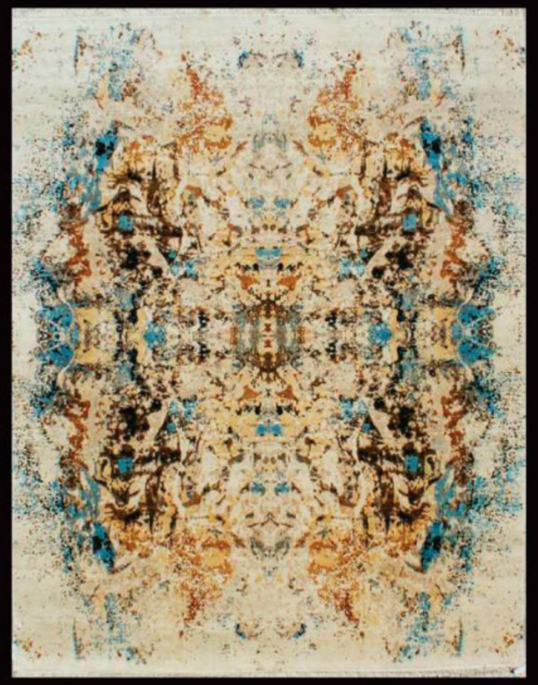

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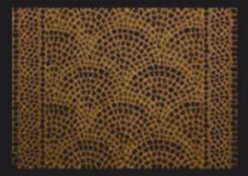

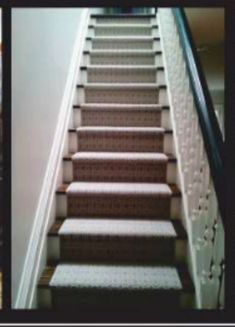

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APRIL 2015

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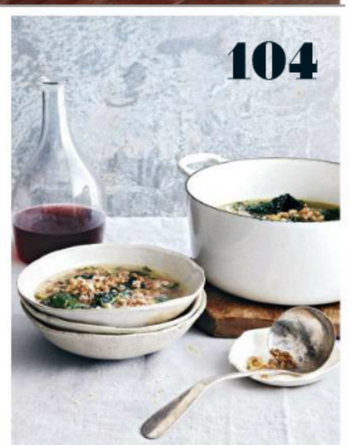
PHOTOGRAPHY
Michael Graydon



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NOT-SO-SECRET *formula*

There's something special about the *Style at Home* reader. Not only do you enjoy decorating, but you *love* your home; plus, you willingly put your trust in us and come along each month on an adventure that's full of exciting new decor surprises – whether it's discovering the hottest furniture trends, learning about the latest fabrics or just being inspired by the stylish rooms we feature. Connecting with you is – hands down – the best part of my job.

Time and time again, I've met readers who tell me how much they want to create their own beautiful spaces but don't know exactly where to start. Many are looking for the perfect formula to get a look that's just right, and that's where our How to Decorate issue comes in. We pulled together a package of interiors by a group of talented homeowners and designers that showcases winning combinations, from brightly hued accessories set against white walls to soft shades paired with beautifully patterned fabrics to neutral textures layered with more tactile elements. Best of all, these homes deliver useful decorating advice and tricks of the trade that you can use as stepping stones to finding your own formula, whether your style is contemporary, traditional or eclectic. Read through the pages and see for yourself.

I'd love to hear about your winning decorating formula. Tweet me @erinmclaughlin1.

Erin

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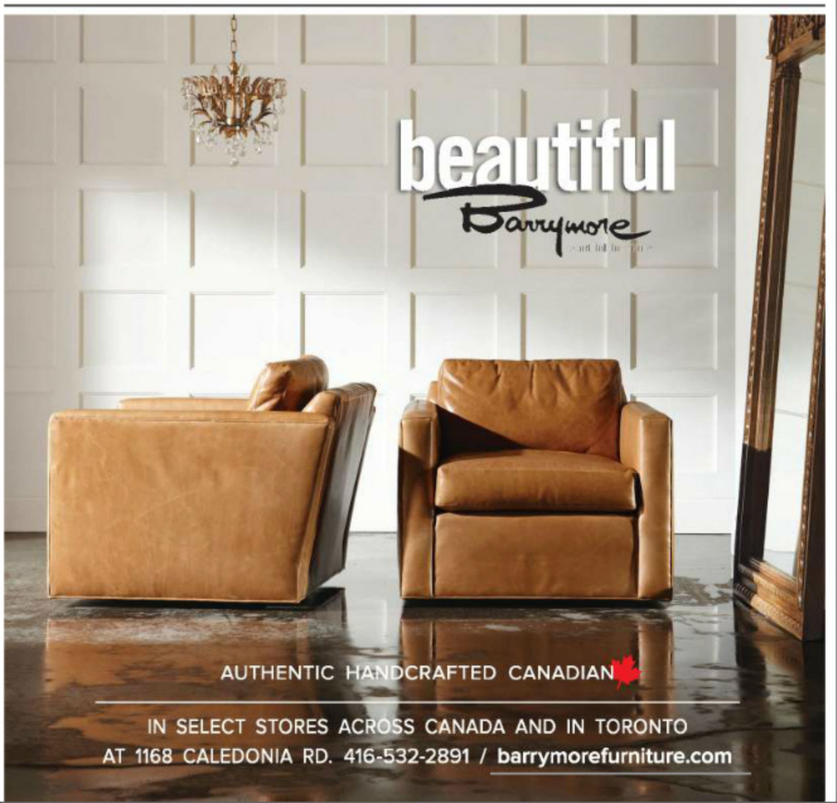

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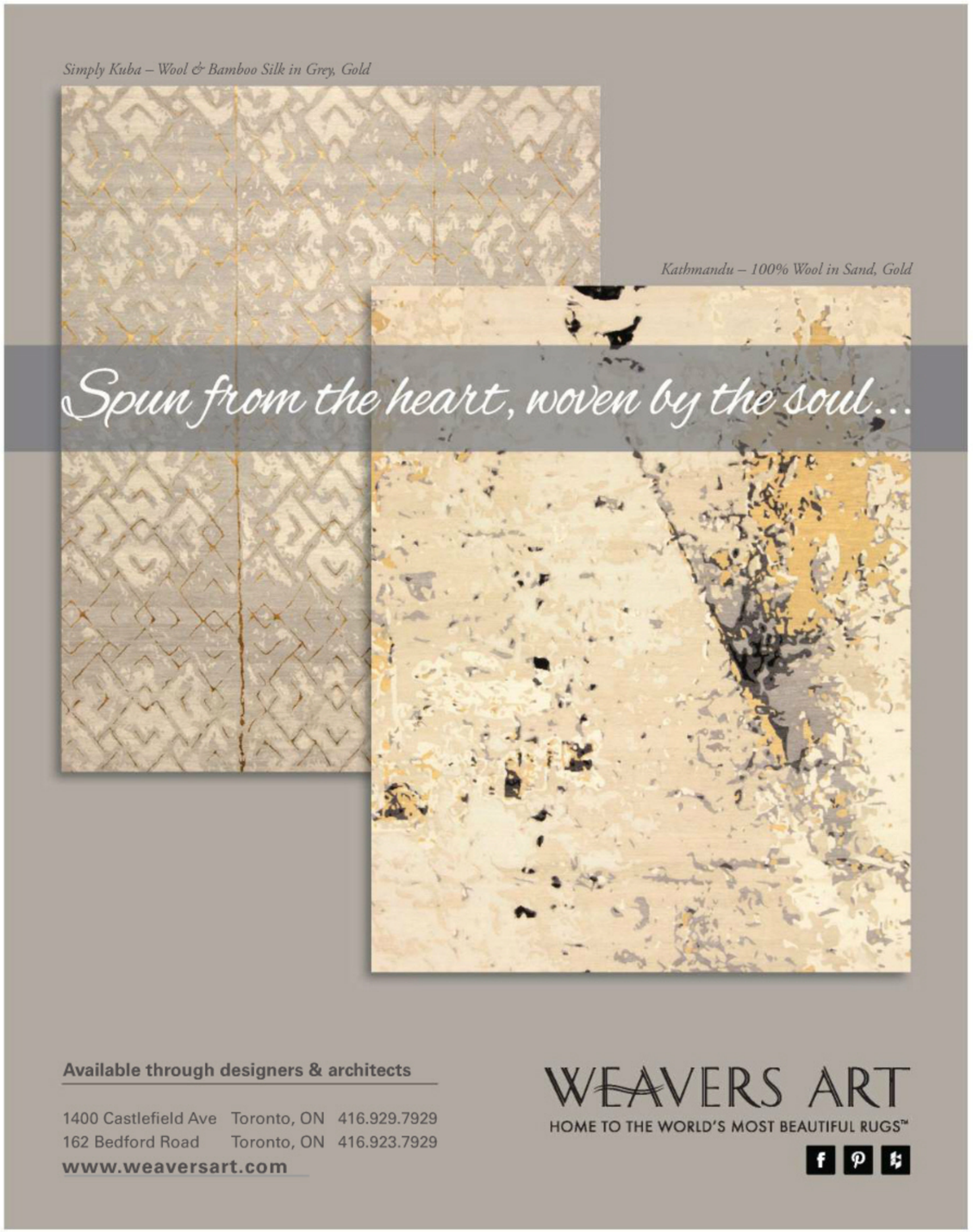

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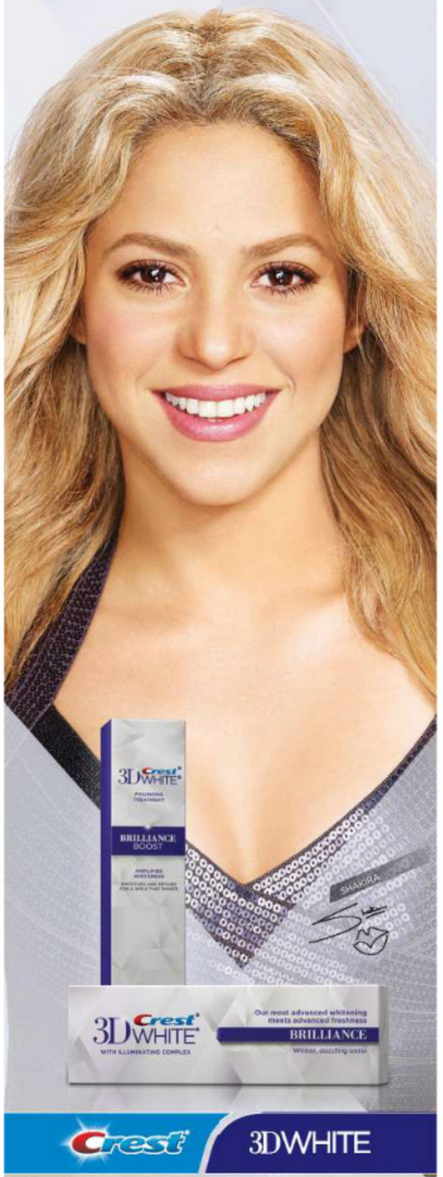

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DESIGN **MUSE**

You should warn readers not to open your magazine until they have their work done! I happened upon *Style at Home*'s February 2015 issue at the library and brought it home. The next thing I knew, I had four kids begging for supper. The sweater stool on page 21 is too cool, and the grand bookshelf featured in "Fresh Start" (page 88) is definitely on my wish list. I'll have to be more disciplined with the next issue – it will be easier on the family.

HEATHER BALDWIN, VIA EMAIL

PAGE-**TURNER**

I always rip out pages from *Style at Home* when I spot something I'd like to have in my house (you should see my binders!). My husband and I did major renovations seven years ago, but I think it's time for some minor changes. Keep up the great work!

SUZANNE DEMOISSAC, ST. PAUL, AB

EMERGING **ARTIST**

My husband is a painter and fine art aficionado who was totally baffled by my love of decor magazines. He used to feel antsy whenever the "D" word came up. When I finally described fabric as another form of art, furniture placement as composition and light fixtures as the shadow aspects of a painting, he began to understand. Now he's even forming strong opinions about decorating. However, we must call it "design" – the new "D" word.

ANJA ROBB, VIA EMAIL

HAPPY **HOME**

While reading the January 2015 issue of *Style at Home*, I couldn't believe my eyes: The "Birds of a Feather" article on page 70 features the home I shared with my wonderful grandmother, her brothers and my two uncles. I spent countless hours lying on the den floor, drawing and painting. I have so many fond memories of that home and am absolutely thrilled to see how beautiful it is now. I hope its current owners and their children enjoy it as much as our family did.

JACKIE PAWLUK, DELTA, BC

STAGING **SECRETS**

As a budding home stager and decorating fanatic, I was thrilled to read the Dollars & Sense column by Jillian Harris in the March 2015 issue (page 40). It's refreshing to finally see someone who is not preaching that you should rid your home of your very being. I'm in complete agreement that "a few trinkets suggest a home is filled with good memories." It's about selling your lifestyle as well as your home.

CINDY HABART, VIA EMAIL

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Beauty beauty Beauty

Gigi's Top 5 Get Gorgeous Tips

We asked YouTube star and beauty aficionado Gigi Gorgeous how she stays looking camera-ready. She gave us her top new must-haves and tips to make sure you're always putting your best face forward:

YouTube Star

1 Whiter Teeth

Most people believe that having a white smile impacts how others perceive them – and I do too! My new favourite beauty secrets for giving my smile added shine are the new Crest® 3D White™ Brilliance Toothpaste and Boost routine. A must try!

Crest® 3D White™ Brilliance toothpaste fights cavities.

2 Lipstick

Depending on my mood, I go for anything from a deep plum to a fun and flirty pink. My favourite lipstick for this season is COVERGIRL® Colourlicious #335 in Tantalize.

3 Mascara

I LOVE mascara! This is my solution for a quick beauty pick-me-up. If I need something to perk up my look and have no time, a good mascara always does the trick.

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4 Foundation

The recipe for a flawless canvas is a good foundation. I like to warm mine up in my hands to make sure it goes on smooth and doesn't give me a cakey look.

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5 Make Up Remover

Waking up with a fresh face helps me start fresh for the day! Always be sure to take off your makeup before bed. I use Olay® S'wipe Out Refreshing Makeup Remover wipes before I hit the sheets.

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behind the scenes

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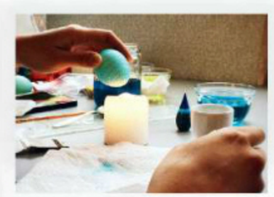
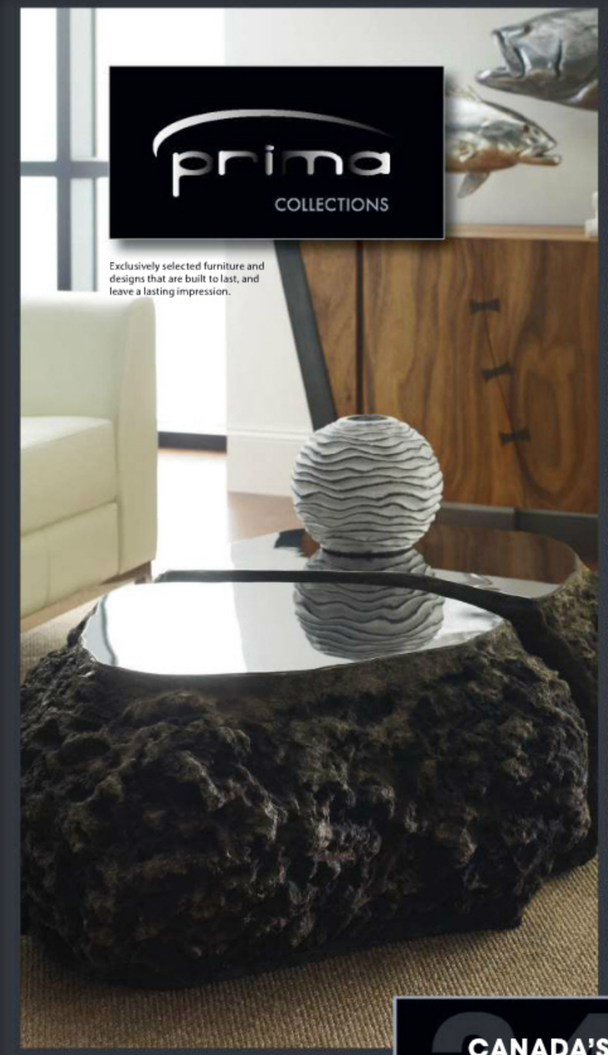
A collection of surface designer Elizabeth Olwen's wares at Toronto's Warp & Weft pop-up shop event. See her latest fabrics on page 52.

Executive editor Suzanne Moutis and associate design editor Morgan Lindsay pose inside *Style at Home*'s IKEA kitchen at Toronto's Interior Design Show.



A sure sign of spring: Easter eggs decorated in playful patterns. Turn to page 110 to master the technique.



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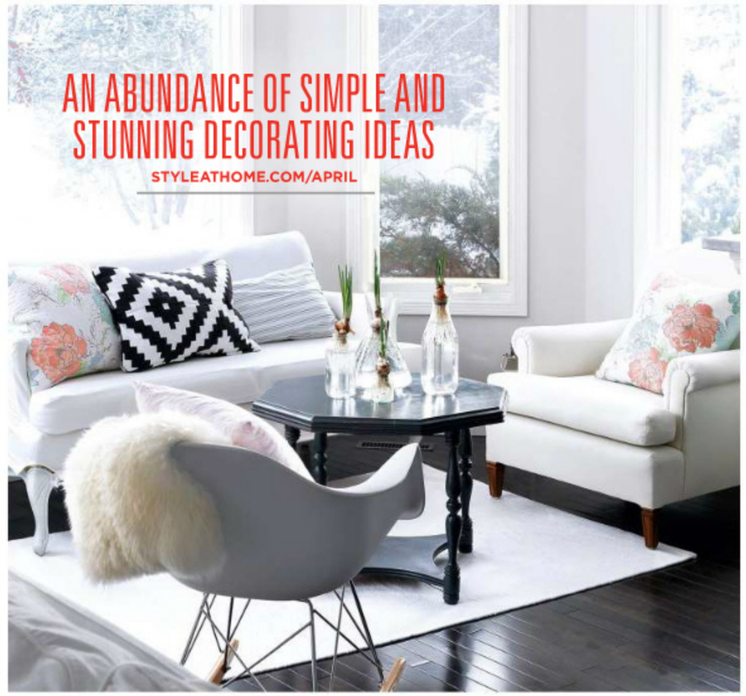
Senior web editor Natalie DiScala and web editor Elaine Song tell us what's happening online this month.



JOIN OUR
LIVE TWITTER CHAT!

TOPIC: Decorating With Colour
WHEN: April 15, 2015, 12 to 1 p.m. EST
#ChatWithStyle

WIN THIS!

This month, you could win a **Hamilton Beach Popcorn Popper,** a welcome addition to your next movie night. It can feed a crowd, popping up to 24 cups of theatre-style popcorn right into its base, which doubles as a serving bowl. The popper is dishwasher safe, so you won't miss a minute of your movie.

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PROJECT *of the* MONTH

Craft stylist Stephanie Hung channels the spirit of Easter and decorates eggs with pastel colours and playful patterns using the old-school wax-and-dye method.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Place Easter eggs in a pretty bowl for a springtime centrepiece.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

BEND IT LIKE THONET

Brasserie Collection beechwood **STOOLS & CHAIR,** $295 US each, and **BENCHES,** $895 US each, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

New Thonet-style seating options.

SERENA & LILY EXPANDS ON ITS BRASSERIE COLLECTION OF CHAIRS INSPIRED BY THE ICONIC THONET SILHOUETTE. THE BENT BEECHWOOD LINE, NOTABLE FOR ITS HAND-CANED SEATS AND BRIGHT COLOUR OPTIONS, NOW INCLUDES BOTH COUNTER- AND BAR-HEIGHT STOOLS, AS WELL AS A BEAUT OF A BENCH.

CITRUS SISTERS

Graphic-patterned toss cushions in juicy shades will wow – whether they're designer versions or budget-friendly ones.

Polyester Valencia Kidney **TOSS CUSHION,** $29, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com; feather-filled linen Zig Zag **TOSS CUSHION** in Magenta, $70, Virginia Johnson, virginiajohnson.com.

LOW $29

HIGH $70

TRUNK SHOW

Adorned with brass-finished hardware, this high-gloss white dresser from Pottery Barn Kids **MIMICS A VINTAGE BRITISH CAMPAIGN TRUNK.** The dapper seven-drawer piece will grow with your little one, holding everything from diapers to diaries and beyond. Before you know it, the ersatz changing table will turn into a makeshift makeup area.

Extra-wide Gemma Campaign **DRESSER,** $1,749, Pottery Barn Kids, potterybarnkids.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA (URBAN BARN TOSS CUSHION)

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NEW AS FOLK

MODERN DESIGN INFUSED WITH A FOLKSY ESSENCE PROVES A WINNING COMBINATION FOR TWO NEW TEXTILES. GARNET HILL'S SPECTRUM QUILT AND SHAMS ARE EDGY PATCHWORKS OF MULTICOLOURED PARALLELOGRAMS – ARTISANAL YET STREAMLINED AND GRAPHIC. LIKEWISE, CB2'S FEATHERBOTTOM RUG, HAND-WOVEN WITH COTTON REMNANTS SALVAGED FROM INDIAN TEXTILE FACTORIES, BEARS A VIBRANT CONTEMPORARY CHEVRON MOTIF.

BEDDING Twin cotton Spectrum **QUILT,** $198 US, and **SHAMS,** $58 US each, Garnet Hill, garnethill.com.

RUG Salvaged cotton Featherbottom **RUG,** 5' x 8', $249, CB2, cb2.ca.

We're not ones to brag, but it's not every day you win gold at Toronto's Interior Design Show. That's right: The IKEA booth, which featured this stunning Parisian bakery-inspired kitchen we designed, earned the first-place spot for best design in its size category.

GRECIAN MISSION

It's easy to guess Jonathan Adler's inspiration for his latest vases. **STRONG SILHOUETTES, RICH PATTERNS AND PURE GOLD DETAILING** make these statuesque accessories fit for a Greek goddess.

Futura Collection porcelain Greek Borders **VASE,** $325 US, Malachite Collection porcelain Teal **VASE,** $198 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathan-adler.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY: DONNA GRIFFITH (KITCHEN)

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cobalt blue

Our trendy associate editor Amanda Etty has a case of the blues...the cobalt blues, that is. This vibrant hue has international influence, from L.A. to Morocco.

INSPIRATION
Cobalt blue rocked the red carpet at the 2015 awards season.

Forget pale hues – go bold on your walls with this true blue paint.

This brilliant shade is named after the blue villa in Morocco's Jardin Majorelle (once owned by Yves Saint Laurent).

Choosing cobalt gives rustic teak a modern edge.

1 Muuto Unfold **PENDANT LIGHT** in Blue, $252, Torp, torpinc.com.

2 Brilliant Blue 2065-30 **PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

3 KitchenAid Professional 600 **STAND MIXER** in Cobalt Blue, $570, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.com.

4 Appliqué Blues **TOSS CUSHION,** $35, CB2, cb2.ca.

5 Eames Molded Fiberglass **ROCKER** in Ultramarine Blue with Chrome and Maple base, $600 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

6 Ibiza **ESPADRILLES** in Blue, $875, Hermès, hermes.com.

7 Cotton Feather **RUG** in Navy & Cobalt, from $195 US, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

8 Dip-dyed **STOOLS** in Cobalt, from $58 US each, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

9 Yves Saint Laurent La Laque Couture **NAIL POLISH** in 18 Bleu Majorelle, $27, Sephora, sephora.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES (JULIA GOLDANI TELLES), JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES (AMY POEHLER & NATASHA LYONNE)

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DECORIUM

coloured bed linens

"Do not bleach"? Do not fret. Our research editor, Mary Levitski, shows you how to launder coloured sheets.

HOW-TO

STEP 1

Coloured sheets typically can't handle as high a water temperature as white ones can (saturated tones tend to fade in intense heat), so pre-treating stains is key. Make a paste of equal parts washing soda and water and work it into stains with a small brush. Let dry before washing.

STEP 2

To maintain bright colours and vivid patterns, turn bed linens inside out before laundering. Wash them in lukewarm water; the mild temperature will help keep the fibres strong. Use gentle detergent and the most powerful wash setting the fabric can handle (always check the label first). Do not use fabric softener, which can decrease absorbency and damage delicate fibres.

STEP 3

If possible, hang dry the sheets, as the dryer can cause wrinkles and weaken some fabrics, such as cotton. If you opt to tumble dry, double-check that all stains are completely gone first (the heat may set them). Remove the linens near the end of the cycle, while they're still damp. For that hotel-worthy crispness, take the extra time to iron the sheets, or cut this corner and hang or lay them out to finish drying.

STYLISH SOLUTION

Counter linen closet clutter: Keep sheet sets organized by placing the neatly folded pieces into one of the pillowcases. Stacked atop one another, these tidy little packages are easy for family members to grab without making a mess.

PRESSED INTO ACTION

Ironing sheets is a big job (especially if they're king-sized). Get a pro machine like one of these to make it count.

EXPERT TOOL A large reservoir and anti-calcium technology mean this steam station just won't quit, while 4.5 bars of pressure make the job quick and easy.

Express Anti-calc **STEAM STATION,** $290, T-fal, t-fal.ca.

GO-TO BRAND This machine by industry leader Rowenta boasts 463 tiny holes for better steam distribution and a motion sensor that halts the steam when the iron is stationary.

Steam Force **IRON,** $180, Rowenta, rowenta.ca.

ERGONOMIC This iron has legs that hold it above the surface when it's not in use (no need to prop it upright!). They retract at the touch of a button, so when you're ready, you can proceed full steam ahead.

Oliso TG1600 Pro Smart **IRON,** $230, Bed Bath & Beyond, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, KIM CHRISTIE (BEDROOM), RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PILLOWCASE)

S@H Does folding your fitted sheets feel like a wrestling match? Find an easier way at **STYLEATHOME.COM/FITTEDSHEET.**

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WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE Mr.

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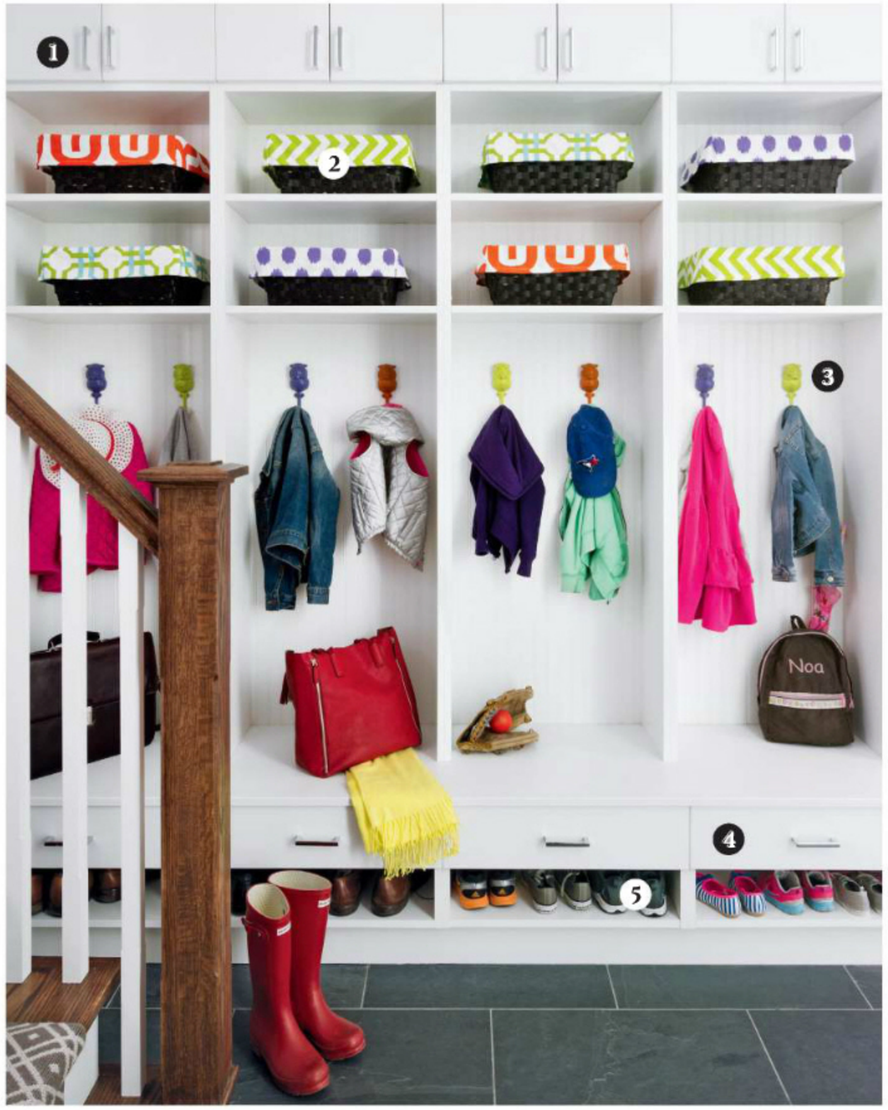
family mud room

Executive editor Suzanne Moutis loves great organizing ideas. Here, she shares innovative solutions for storing your stuff.



KEEPING KIDS' BELONGINGS UNDER CONTROL doesn't have to be an exercise in futility. Space management is the solution, and this mud room designed by Jodie Rosen is a case in point. Her straightforward layout and streamlined floor-to-ceiling execution get the job done simply and effectively, while the bright pops of colour in hooks and basket liners keep the look fun and fresh.

1 Jodie has taken advantage of the room's height by installing closed cabinetry over the cubby holes to store off-season articles.

2 Cubbies equipped with baskets mean everything from mittens and hats to skipping ropes and rubber balls has an easy-to-reach spot to call its own.

3 Hooks placed at just the right height are perfect for little ones to learn to hang up coats every time, while the ample space below gives children a place to perch while putting on shoes or boots.

4 Unobtrusive drawers are ideal for stashing small items like earbuds, iPods, house keys and extra socks so they don't get lost.

5 Jodie has effectively used all the available real estate – right down to the floor. These shelves make optimal storage for slip-ons and sneakers.

TIP

If you've got a large brood to wrangle, using a colour-coding system can be a lifesaver. Designate one colour for each child to eliminate the guesswork of what belongs to whom.

PHOTOGRAPHY, STEPHANI BUCHNAN; DESIGN, JODIE ROSEN DESIGN, JODIEROSENDESIGN.COM

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PHOTO OF TRISH LINDSTROM AND IAN LAKE BY CYLLA VON TIEDEMANN

curb appeal

Contractor Jonathan Scott and real estate agent Drew Scott reveal cost-effective ways to improve your home's curb appeal.

NOTHING PUTS A BUYER at ease faster than a seller's pride of ownership. If it's clear that you take care of your home, a prospective buyer is less likely to think you're cutting corners. It all starts with the state of the exterior, which will set the tone for the entire viewing. Here are a few foolproof ideas to get you started.

UPGRADE THE FIXTURES

Swap out that cheap dated light fixture for a more modern option that illuminates your entire entry and adds a touch of elegance. You can also install a matching mailbox or a lamp at the end of your driveway.

introduce pops of colour

Wake up your front entry by painting the door a statement-making hue (like one of these three examples) that suits the style of your home. It's a quick, impermanent update that's budget friendly.

become a paint pro

Prep, clean and prime your door before choosing an exterior paint (latex or alkyd). Then apply a few coats on a mild day, avoiding direct sunlight to prevent uneven drying. Keep your door propped open until the edges dry completely.

invest with care

THE SIDING IS THE LARGEST VISIBLE SURFACE AREA OF YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR THAT DRAMATICALLY ALTERS ITS LOOK (THINK STUCCO COMPARED TO VINYL). PRESSURE-WASH THE MATERIAL BEFORE SELLING TO MAKE SURE IT'S CLEAN AND IN GOOD REPAIR. AND IF IT'S PEPTO-BISMOL PINK, PAINT IT SOMETHING MORE CURRENT.

FOCUS

ON LANDSCAPING

If you have a large lawn, break things up by creating areas of interest with garden beds. Plant flowers that offer continuous bloom, and if landscaping space is limited, include them in planters flanking your front door or porch. Those with small plots (read: little to no grass) can also consider low-maintenance alternatives like a beautiful wildflower or rock garden.

PHOTOGRAPHY, CHRIS MATTHEWS (PORTRAIT), STACEY BRANDFORD (EXTERIOR)

Jonathan and Drew Scott are the hosts of W Network's *Property Brothers*. Catch new episodes Mondays at 9 p.m. EST/PST on W Network.

Jack is a liar!

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ROOM TO GROW

A young girl's bedroom is decorated with a grown-up touch.

FOR MORE KIDS' BEDROOM INSPIRATION, TURN TO PAGE 75

TEXT: CATHERINE THERRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL GRAYDON; STYLING: CHRISTINE HANLON

the formula

Homeowner Remy Lang used these four key elements to create a bedroom for her daughter Mia, 7, that makes a bold statement but doesn't feel overdressed.

1 | bed frame

The vintage metal bed frame with a fanciful scroll pattern is girly but also sophisticated, making it the perfect piece to grow with Mia.

Oxford White CC-30 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore.

2 | accessories

Playful accessories like the oversized red balloon and charming prints add a dose of youthful personality.

Red **BALLOON,** Little Party Shoppe; **PRINTS,** Katie Muth Original Prints.

3 | bedding

The bedding's mix of patterns, such as stripes and polka dots, lends it a free-spirited yet refined vibe.

BED SHEETS, PILLOWCASES, striped **THROW, TOSS CUSHION,** Au Lit Fine Linens.

4 | rug

The bold and graphic Madeline Weinrib rug was the starting point for the room's colour scheme. Red gives just the right amount of adult sensibility to pink.

RUG, Y & Co.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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beauti-tone.ca

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI

country kitchen

Norway-based designer Annette Thorsbye's farmhouse kitchen, awash in green accents and bursting with light, calls to mind the country's pastoral landscape.

Pendant lights clustered together at slightly differing heights become an instant showpiece. The earthy tones of pale green, cream and taupe are unexpected alternatives to standard brass or chrome.

Forget wallpaper – this kitchen's retro flooring commands attention. The floral pattern adds visual interest and punctuates the simple glossy white furniture.

PHOTOGRAPHY: LIVINGMEDIA/ANNETTE & CHRISTIAN

"my mint candy apple has bite."
Essie

For a decadent treat minus the guilt, stick with my "mint candy apple," one of my ultra-indulgent greens and blues that leaves nails longing for more.

turquoise & caicos
naughty nautical
trophy wife
go overboard
stylenomics

get colour crazy @ essie.ca

mint candy apple
one of my enticing greens and blues. you'll crave many more.

America's nail salon expert. Since 1981.

A bright green sheaf of wheat brings a taste of the countryside to the dining table and ties into the space's fresh colour palette.

Open shelves offer easy access to everyday dishware. They also double as a pretty display case, exhibiting orderly white and citrus-hued items that wake up the neutral walls.

Foto **PENDANT LIGHTS** in Green and Beige, $15 each, IKEA, ikea.ca.

Beauti-Tone Style at Home Colour Collection Paper White SD036 **PAINT,** Home Hardware, homehardware.ca.

GET THE LOOK ON A BUDGET

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Tassel Crema porcelain **FLOOR TILES** in assorted patterns, $12 per sq. ft., Mettro Source, mettro.ca.

Tolix Marais A **DINING CHAIR** in White, $275 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Cooking Apple Green 32 **PAINT,** Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

Extendable Ingatorp **DINING TABLE** in White, $349, IKEA, ikea.ca.

Square **CASSEROLE** in Palm with lid, $100, Le Creuset, lecreuset.ca.

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* Vitality Rejuvenated Range vs flat, limp hair.

the florida keys

Research editor Mary Levitski explores the chain of islands at the States' southernmost point, where American and Caribbean cultures converge in bright and lively combinations.

THE ERNEST HEMINGWAY HOME & MUSEUM

Tour the house that Ernest Hemingway shared with his second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer (and dozens of polydactyl cats). Pfeiffer's creative prowess is almost as inspiring as Hemingway's – the *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair* journalist decorated their abode in the hottest '30s fashions, including imported Parisian Art Deco tile and an elaborate Venetian glass chandelier.

907 Whitehead St., Key West, hemingwayhome.com.

TRANQUILITY BAY BEACHFRONT HOTEL AND RESORT

Make yourself at home at Tranquility Bay. Victorian-meets-tropical townhouse suites reveal crisp Caribbean-chic interiors with serene views of the bay. It's a truly *ah*-inspiring place.

2600 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, tranquilitybay.com.

FAST BUCK'S AT HOME & KEY ACCENTS

Key West is known for its quirky upcycled decor, but off the beaten path of Duval Street are two gems that any polished decorista will appreciate. Fast Buck's at Home and Key Accents wow with glamorous tropical furniture and accessories. (Think: seashell mirrors.)

726 Caroline St., Key West, fastbucksathome.com; 804 Caroline St., Key West, keyaccents.net.

GLAZED DONUTS

Glazed Donuts's award-winning key lime doughnut – a twist on the region's eponymous pie – is a limey curd-filled, meringue-topped "slice" of heaven.

420 Eaton St., Key West, glazeddonuts.com.

D'ASIGN SOURCE

Right off the highway, where you'd least expect it, is one of the most impressive furniture showrooms I've ever seen. D'Asign Source, also a home builder and design firm, sells stunning beachy decor worthy of its luxury custom-home projects.

11500 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, dasignsource.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF TRANQUILITY BAY BEACHFRONT HOTEL AND RESORT (HOTEL ROOM); COURTESY OF GLAZED DONUTS (DOUGHNUT); ROB O'NEAL (MUSEUM); ILLUSTRATION, EMILIE SIMPSON

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kitchen cravings

Associate editor and food enthusiast Amanda Etty rounds up the latest and greatest gourmet products, kitchen gadgets and more.

Bold as Brass

For the hostess with the mostest, these sculptural solid brass bottle openers come in a variety of contemporary geometric designs. They're beautiful and functional – perfect for hanging in your kitchen or bar area.

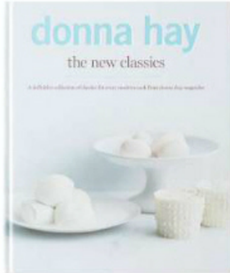
Fort Standard brass Crest **BOTTLE OPENERS,** $79 each, Provide, providehome.com.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Signature cast-iron **COOKWARE** in Licorice, from $195, Le Creuset, lecreuset.ca.

IN THE BLACK

This April, Le Creuset is offering its much-coveted cookware in flat black. The classic collection has been given an industrial edge and is a fitting addition to any style of kitchen, from country to contemporary.



New Favourite

An essential read for every home chef, this tome by acclaimed Aussie food writer Donna Hay is filled with more than 300 recipes for classic dishes with a modern twist. Donna is a pro at pairing old favourites with fresh seasonal ingredients, creating simple meals that have serious wow factor.

The New Classics **COOKBOOK** by Donna Hay, $50, Indigo, indigo.ca.

Carry On

Carrying your casserole to a soiree is that much easier with this sturdy and stylish tote from California's Heath Ceramics. Made of organic cotton, the carrier's centre opening makes it convenient to transport large plates and bowls (up to 13" in diameter).

Cotton Àplat **TOTE** in Stone & Blue, $44 US, Heath Ceramics, heathceramics.com.

A CARRIER FOR YOUR CASSEROLE

Wise Owl

Two parts Owl's Brew + one part booze = one refreshing cocktail. Owl's Brew cocktail mixers are made with freshly brewed teas and sweetened with pure agave nectar. Packaged in bottles that look good enough to display on your bar cart, they're a delightful complement to your preferred spirit.

The Classic **COCKTAIL MIXER,** $17 US, Owl's Brew, theowlsbrew.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JEFFERY CROSS (TOTE)

FIGHT OFF THAT

"I'll have one...okay, maybe two"

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TEXT SUZANNE MOUTIS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOE KIM | **PROP STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

banana cream pie

Recipe developer and food stylist Tanya Eng makes over an after-dinner favourite with a layer of creamy caramel.

to take a favourite recipe and update it with a twist is not a novel concept. But when said twist involves our 2015 go-to ingredient, dulce de leche, and a delicious standby like banana cream pie, the culinary world feels dazzlingly, delightfully new again. It seems our taste buds have been waiting forever for this scrumptious flavour infusion, and now that we've had it, we're never letting it go.

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 10 SERVINGS

Crust
- 1 cup banana chips
- 1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted

Filling
- 1½ cups 2% milk
- ½ cup granulated sugar + ⅓ cup for caramelizing the bananas
- ⅓ cup cornstarch
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- ⅔ cup dulce de leche
- 5 bananas
- 1½ cups whipping cream
- 2 tbsp icing sugar

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

PHILADELPHIA

PHILLY MAKES THE TART GROW FONDER

Proudly inspired by a recipe from MasterChef Canada.

Philly Phyllo Cheesecake Tarts

- 2 pkg. (250 g each) **Philadelphia** Brick Cream Cheese, softened
- 4 sheets frozen phyllo dough, thawed
- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 cups **Cool Whip** Whipped Topping, thawed
- 1 cup canned cherry pie filling

HEAT oven to 350°F.

STACK phyllo sheets, brushing butter between each layer. Cut into 24 (3x3½-inch) rectangles. Press 1 rectangle into each of 24 muffin cups sprayed with cooking spray.

BAKE 8 to 10 min. or until golden brown. Cool.

BEAT cream cheese and sugar with mixer until blended. Stir in Cool Whip. Spoon evenly into phyllo cups; top with pie filling.

REFRIGERATE for 10 min.

MAKE AHEAD: the phyllo cups can be baked ahead of time. Store in airtight container at room temperature for up to 24 hours. Fill as directed just before serving.

VARIATION CITRUS: add the zest and juice of 1 lemon. Prepare cream cheese filling as directed, adding lemon juice with the sugar. Sprinkle tarts evenly with lemon zest before serving.

VARIATION MAPLE WALNUT: prepare cream cheese filling as directed, adding ¼ cup maple syrup with the sugar. Top each tart with ½ tsp. chopped toasted walnuts and a drizzle of maple syrup before serving.

MasterChef CANADA SUNDAYS CTV

Find more MasterChef Canada inspired recipes at: Kraftcanada.com/mcc

Watch MasterChef Canada on CTV for more great inspiration.

DIRECTIONS

PREHEAT THE OVEN to 350°F. In a high-powered blender or food processor, pulse the banana chips to a fine crumb. Combine with the graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter in a medium bowl. Scrape the mixture into a 9" round springform pan. Using a flat-bottomed glass or spoon, gently and firmly work the crumb mixture into a well-packed even layer. Bake for 10 minutes, until the crust is light golden brown; set aside to cool.

IN A SMALL SAUCEPAN, make a custard by whisking together the milk, ½ cup sugar, cornstarch, egg yolks and vanilla extract. Heat over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture thickens and just begins to boil. Remove from the heat and transfer the custard to a shallow heatproof bowl and cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate until cooled.

TO ASSEMBLE THE PIE, spread the dulce de leche in an even layer over the graham cracker crumb crust; peel and slice 2 of the bananas and arrange the slices over the dulce de leche. Spread the chilled custard over the banana slices.

USING AN ELECTRIC MIXER, beat the whipping cream with the icing sugar until stiff peaks form. Spread the whipped cream over the custard; chill the pie until ready to serve.

JUST BEFORE SERVING, peel and slice the remaining 3 bananas on the diagonal and arrange the slices on a baking sheet; sprinkle liberally with the remaining ⅓ cup sugar. Caramelize the bananas by using a brulée torch or broiling them in the oven. Arrange the banana slices over the pie and serve immediately.

STEP BY STEP

S@H For a video on how to make this recipe, go to **VIDEO.STYLEATHOME.COM.**

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high OR low?

We've dressed two home sewing studios to the nines on both a bargain brand and a haute couture budget. Can you tell the difference?

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE

TEXT MARY LEVITSKI

PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL NANGREAVES

1 Small coiled cotton-blend rope Cove **BASKET,** Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca. — $40

2 Sektion **CABINETRY BASES,** $152, foiled fibreboard Ringhult **CABINETRY DOORS** in High-Gloss White, 24" x 30", $98 each, and 24" x 60", $161 each, IKEA, ikea.ca. — $929

3 White oak and powder-coated steel Rex **TASK LAMP** in Ivory, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca. — $119

4 Painted pine and engineered wood Zuma **TRAYS** in Aqua Sky, Orange and White, $35 each, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca. — $105

5 Solid reclaimed pine Post and Rail **DINING TABLE** (used as desk) in Driftwood, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com. — $999

6 Seletti cotton **BIN,** Neat, neatspace.ca. — $99

7 Hand-woven wicker **BASKET,** HomeSense, homesense.ca. — $50

8 Chrome-plated metal Coup **OFFICE CHAIR** with polyester Harper fabric in Teal Blue, CB2, cb2.ca. — $349

9 Husqvarna Viking computerized 1,000-plus-stitch Designer Ruby Royale **SEWING MACHINE** with embroidery attachment (not shown), SVP Worldwide, svpworldwide.com. — $12,000

10 Green **CUTTING MAT,** 24" x 36", DeSerres, deserres.ca. — $68

HIGH $14,758

HIGH & LOW Feiss **PENDANT LIGHT,** Sescolite, sescolite.com; **DRESS FORM,** HomeSense, homesense.ca; scented organic felted wool **PIN CUSHIONS,** Simple Is Pretty Shop, simpleisprettyshop.etsy.com.

1 Coiled cotton rope **BASKET,** Michaels, michaels.com. — $25

2 Sektion **CABINETRY BASES,** $152, painted fibreboard Veddinge **CABINETRY DOORS** in White, 24" x 30", $28 each, and 24" x 60", $46 each, IKEA, ikea.ca. — $374

3 Powder-coated metal Inez **TASK LAMP** in White, Structube, structube.com. — $49

4 Lacquered engineered wood Hi-Gloss **TRAYS** in Swoon Blue-Green, Orange and White, $35 each, CB2, cb2.ca. — $105

5 Stained solid Acacia wood and veneer Verona **DINING TABLE** (used as desk), Jysk, jysk.ca. — $400

6 Canvas Retro Jumbo Text **BIN,** Jysk, jysk.ca. — $17

7 Wicker **BASKET,** HomeSense, homesense.ca. — $20

8 Powder-coated aluminum and wool blend Patrik Swivel **OFFICE CHAIR** in Ullevi Blue, IKEA, ikea.ca. — $199

9 Singer One Plus electronic 231-stitch **SEWING MACHINE,** SVP Worldwide, svpworldwide.com. — $599

10 Olfa Self-healing **CUTTING MAT,** 24" x 36", Michaels, michaels.com. — $45

LOW $1,833

rising NORTHERN star

A CANADIAN SURFACE DESIGNER WITH INTERNATIONAL APPEAL TALKS STYLE, INSPIRATION AND CREATIVE SPACES.

Surface designer Elizabeth Olwen in her Toronto home studio.

Toronto's Elizabeth Olwen is fairly new to the small pool of Canadian surface designers, but in only a few years, she's made a splash. Her growing roster of international clients includes Cloud9 Fabrics. We love her earlier collections for the fabric house, Grey Abbey (used as bunting) and Wildwood (hanging on wall), but we're totally obsessed with her latest – Morning Song – displayed on the dress, toss cushion and pillowcase (on chair).

1 Elizabeth Olwen Grey Abbey Gentle Vines in Coral, **2** Floral Whimsy in Egg Blue, **3** Deco Floral in Spearmint, **4** English Garden in Pearl, **5** Folky Daisy in Egg Blue and **6** Swaying Floral in Egg Blue, **7** Wildwood Forest Floor in Khaki and **8** Full Bloom in Indigo, **9** Morning Song Lush Lullabye in Gray, **10** Lazy Daisy in Coral, **11** Dancing Vines in Orange and **12** Rich Meadow in Ivory, from $13 US per yard each, Cloud9 Fabrics, cloud9fabrics.com.

Q+A

What is surface design? It's exactly what it sounds like: design for surfaces – anything from textiles to flooring to wallpaper to stationery, even the motifs on your favourite teapot. I license my artwork to many types of manufacturers for different kinds of products.

How did you get started? I was a graphic designer for 10 years, so I was in that realm, but I had no idea you could make patterns for a living. It's something I've loved from a very young age and always tinkered with it, but the aha moment came in 2012: I went to Berlin on sabbatical to discover what I woke up every day wanting to work on – and this was it!

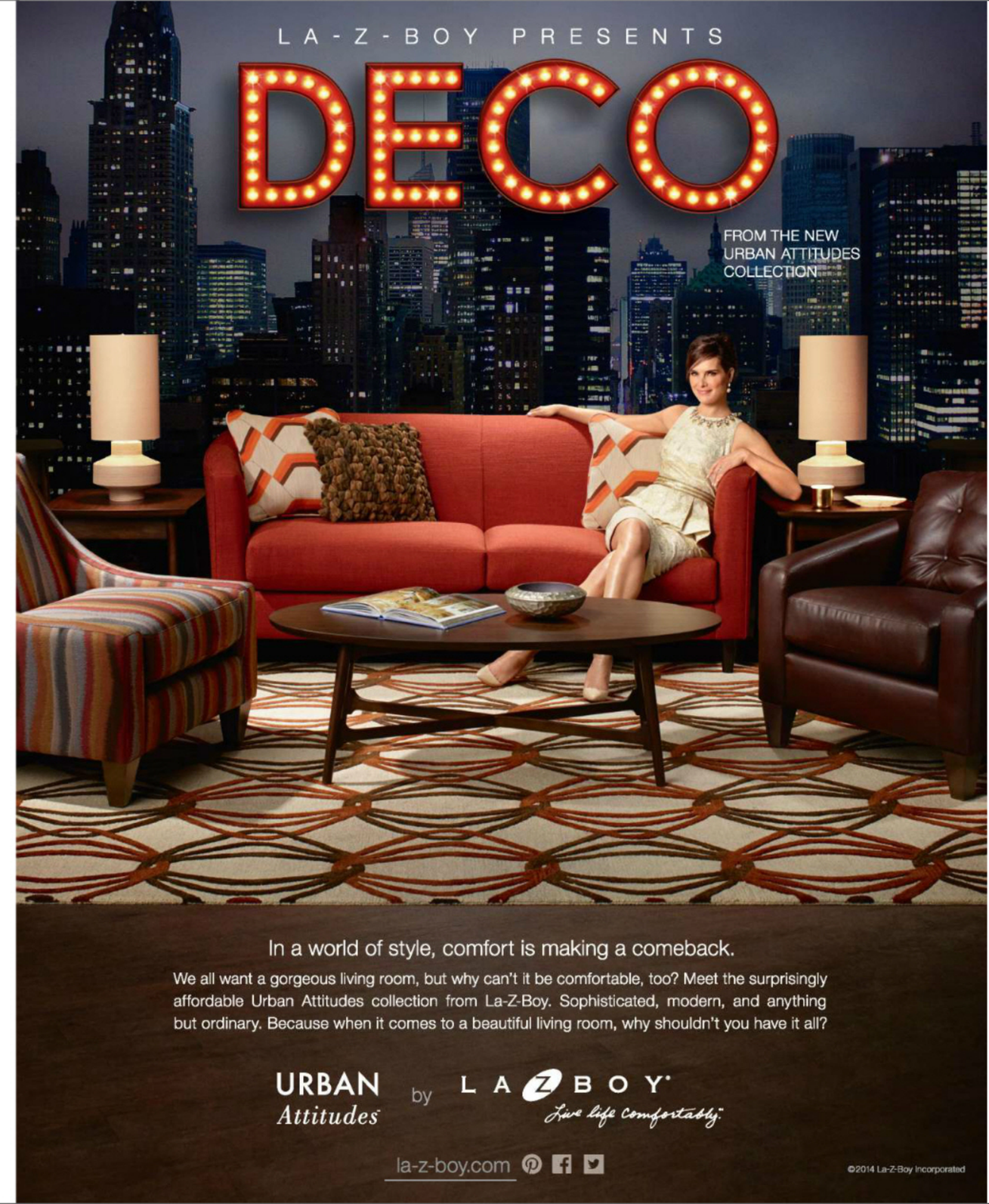
Describe your aesthetic. Fresh and modern with a nod to vintage. I like to think of it as something joyful that brightens your day – a backdrop to a beautiful life.

What inspires you? Mostly nature. In the summer, I go camping a lot. I really keep my eyes open in the forest. I pay attention to what's on the ground, the shapes of the leaves. The Canadian landscape is definitely part of my work, but I'm also inspired by days gone by, especially the '60s and '70s.

Do you have a favourite surface to design for? I enjoy all of them, but fabric stands out. It's great seeing people take my artwork and make something else with it.

Describe your home studio. It's got big windows – I need sunlight to feel creative. There's a gallery wall with my favourite prints and a couple of shelves with inspirational things I've picked up along the way, like old folk art books and vintage wallpapers. And plants, which bring in life.

What's next for you? It's funny, in surface design you never really know what's around the corner. In fabrics, I was mainly doing quilting weight, but I'm working with Cloud9 Fabrics on voiles and corduroys, which is exciting. I also recently collaborated with floor tile company Mirth Studio. My ultimate goal is to be a household name.



SEW ORDERLY

WAYWARD BUTTONS, ROLLING BOBBINS...THE VERY FABRIC OF ORDER CAN UNRAVEL QUICKLY IN THE SEAMSTRESS'S QUARTERS. GIVE THESE TWO CREATIVE ORGANIZING IDEAS A WHIRL.

LEFT Elizabeth Olwen Wildwood Pretty Posies **FABRIC** in Turquoise and Coral, and Deco Petal **FABRIC** in Turquoise, Cloud9 Fabrics, cloud9fabrics.com. **BELOW** Elizabeth Olwen Wildwood Full Bloom **FABRIC** in Coral (back of cabinet), Cloud9 Fabrics, cloud9fabrics.com.

1
TRAY MAGNIFIQUE!
Stack a few thick-rimmed square trays on your work table (mix colours for a fun look). Fill the top one with oft-used bits and bobs, including scissors and a measuring tape; stash flat sartorial essentials like fabric remnants in the bottom ones.

2
IN THE OPEN
Keep supplies for current projects top of mind by storing them on open shelving. Here we've intentionally omitted doors on one cabinetry column. To give the display some cohesion, we lined the back of the cabinet with a favourite fabric.

1 Needle-felted wool Apple, $22 US, Ewe and Me Yarns, ewe-andmeyarns.etsy.com; **2** scented organic felted wool in Aqua, $10, Simple Is Pretty Shop, simpleisprettyshop.etsy.com; **3** cotton Wrist, $10, Caractacus Crane, caractacuscrane.etsy.com.

on pins and NEEDLES

When you think of a pincushion, the classic tomato shape likely comes to mind. The icon dates back to the Victorian era, when tomatoes were placed on mantels to ward off evil and invite prosperity. When the fruit was out of season, dummy versions (made from red fabric and filled with sawdust) were improvised. One seamstress thought to store pins and needles in hers, and the rest is history. As the design gained popularity, a small strawberry form containing an abrasive for cleaning and sharpening was added. To honour that creative spirit, we've compiled some unique **pincushions** from the Etsy-verse. Who knows – maybe the icon will be replaced by a red apple?

IN STITCHES

DREAMING BIG, BUT YOUR BUDGET'S ALMOST LAUGHABLE? DON'T WORRY – HERE ARE FOUR AFFORDABLE **SEWING MACHINES** FOR THE EAGER BEGINNER.

HIGH

Computerized 50-stitch CE-5000, $200, Brother, brother.ca.

Singer mechanical 8-stitch 1408 Promise, $149, SVP Worldwide, svpworldwide.com.

Mechanical 56-stitch XB2510, $130, Brother, brother.ca.

SY electronic 13-stitch, $80, IKEA, ikea.ca.

LOW

PHOTOGRAPHY, ISTOCKPHOTO (TOMATO PINCUSHION)

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ORGANIC LIVING
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CULTURAL ECLECTIC
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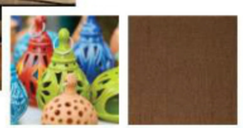

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COME *together*

TEXT JENNIFER HUGHES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOE KIM
STYLING CHRISTINE HANLON

Two small rooms become one expansive kitchen/dining area with a sophisticated, formal look. The space is a ready gathering spot for a family of five, as well as their many guests.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

the idea of a separate kitchen and formal dining room no longer makes sense for many families. However, homeowners Linda Paterson Bier and Peter Bier made do with the original 1930s-era kitchen in their Toronto house for a decade before jumping into a big renovation. "We had our third daughter soon after we moved in, so the kitchen just wasn't a priority," Linda explains. But as the girls (MacKenzie, 14, Kennedy, 13, and Charlize, 10) got older, the awkward layout became more of an issue. Linda craved a functional space for everyday family meals and entertaining guests. In 2013, she turned to friend and designer Karen Kayne for help in coming up with a new plan.

"We wanted to stay within the existing walls, as opposed to adding on," says Linda. Karen opened up the kitchen to the dining room to create a long, 400-square-foot cooking space and eat-in area. A window was closed off to allow for an extended run of cabinetry along one wall,

LEFT Since this is the home's only dining area, a round table and cane-backed chairs were chosen to lend a more formal feel for intimate dinner parties hosted by homeowner Linda Paterson Bier (pictured far left).

DESIGN, Karen Kayne Design, 416-488-0777; **DINING TABLE** (refinished), Union Lighting and Furnishings; **DINING CHAIRS,** Restoration Hardware; custom **BANQUETTE,** Louis Interiors; **BANQUETTE FABRICS,** Designer Fabrics; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** West Elm; **CHARGERS, TUMBLERS,** Crate and Barrel; **NAPKINS,** Pottery Barn.

ABOVE The kitchen's pale grey scheme contributes to its refined, elegant vibe. Glass-fronted cabinets flanking the window are lit at night for a soft glow.

Calacatta marble **COUNTERTOPS,** Olympia Tile + Stone; marble mosaic **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Saltillo Imports; porcelain **FLOOR TILES,** Cercan Tile; **RUG,** Elte; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Restoration Hardware.

while the door to the backyard was removed to make way for French doors. "Any light lost from removing the window was more than gained back with the double doors," says Karen.

Because the updated kitchen also encompasses the home's only dining area, the whole room was given a refined aesthetic. The space's subdued elegance prevents it from looking too kitcheny and, to the same effect, Karen chose a soft grey strié finish on the cabinets to emphasize the custom millwork and offer a more gracious feel.

The new eat-in area, with its cozy banquette and round glass table, is suitable for the family's daily meals, as well as intimate dinner parties. (And now Linda and Peter don't feel shut away from guests when prepping meals in the kitchen.) "With our three daughters and their friends, the banquette sees a lot of action. There are tons of kids coming through this house every week," says Linda. Needless to say, the new kitchen was definitely worth the wait.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

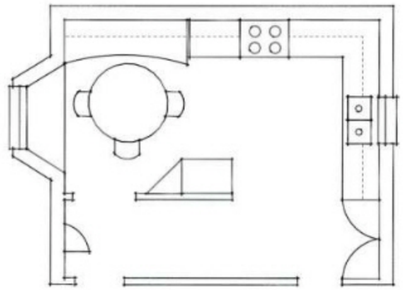
BELOW Designer Karen Kayne ingeniously added a marble surface with built-in drawers to the bay window nook. It acts as a buffet space for entertaining and as a homework hub during the week (with the addition of one of the cane-backed dining chairs).

RIGHT French doors give the kids and the family's chocolate Lab easy access to the backyard. Porcelain floor tiles that mimic travertine are a durable choice for such a high-traffic space.

Heavy Metal P5244-73D **DOOR PAINT,** Para Paints; green **RUG,** West Elm.

THE FLOOR PLAN

Formerly two separate rooms, this open-concept kitchen layout includes an eat-in area (the home's only dining space), a multi-functional nook and French doors that lead to the backyard.



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AIR CANADA

In the spacious new dining room, a built-in niche displays china and provides storage for linens and flatware. The 12-foot-long trestle table, which can comfortably seat at least 14 people, called for two small chandeliers rather than a large central one.

DESIGN, Stacy McLennan Interiors, stacyminteriors.com; **CONTRACTING,** Napa Valley Contracting; Calming Cream OC-105 **WALL PAINT,** Bird's Egg 2051-60 **NICHE PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **DINING CHAIRS,** Silva Custom Furniture; Fabricut **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Designers Gallery; **CHANDELIERS,** Union Lighting and Furnishings.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT Interior designer Stacy McLennan relaxes on the living room's window seat.

Growing PAINS

TEXT
JENNIFER HUGHES

PHOTOGRAPHY
STACEY VAN BERKEL

STYLING
SASHA SEYMOUR

With a few tweaks here and some walls down there, a once-crowded bungalow now boasts bright and open spaces ideal for a big family that likes to entertain.

With four children, Lynne and Harry James were already feeling the squeeze in their 1950s bungalow in Markham, Ont. And as the kids (Justin, 26, Shauna, 24, Nicolette, 18, and Paris, 13) grew older, the place got even more crowded. "There are more people at meals now," says Lynne, "since the older ones invite their partners and the younger ones have their friends over." (That's not to mention regular visits from the extended family.) Rather than tack on a big addition to the 2,500-square-foot home, in 2010 they decided to make the existing space work harder for the family's lifestyle.

Lynne's eye for design got her through the stunning cottage-style kitchen reno, but when it came time to rethink the rest of the house's

LEFT In the kitchen, the powder-blue island demonstrates homeowner Lynne James's fearlessness about colour. It easily seats four and acts as a focal point in the open space.

BELOW The living room's cream walls provide a neutral backdrop for colourful accessories like the toss cushions and beautiful chandelier.

Calming Cream OC-105 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore.

BELOW, LEFT Shaker-style cabinetry, marble countertops and white subway backsplash tiles make for a timeless look in the kitchen.

"Big families need lots of seating. We wanted comfortable options in the living room for reading and lounging."

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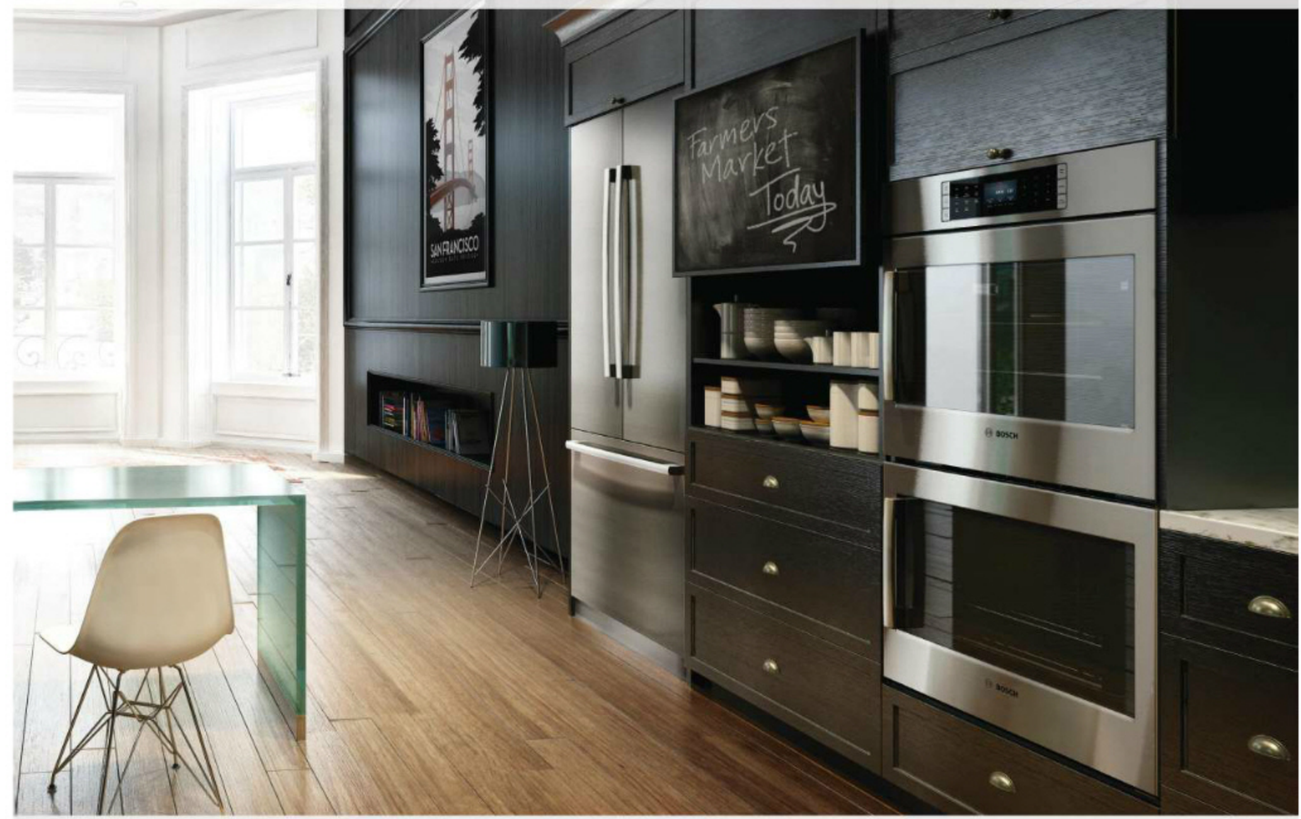

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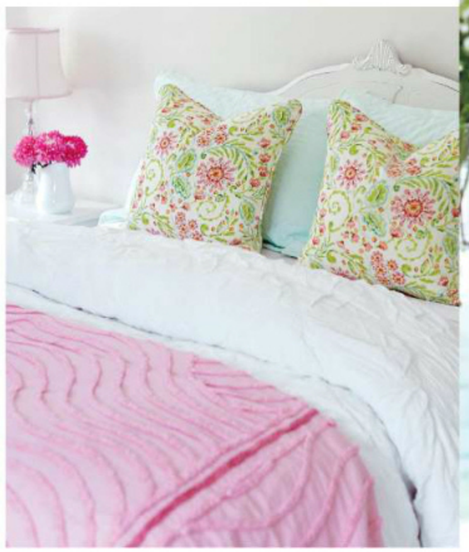
> "I wanted a light kitchen with a cottage feel, and nothing says cottage to me more than powder blue."

layout, she brought in interior designer Stacy McLennan to help make it feel more spacious. Changes included opening up the dining room to the living room on one side and annexing a small bedroom on the other in order to double the size of the dining room.

Stacy also helped select charming fabrics and classic furnishings that work with Lynne's existing pieces, many of them vintage or antique. "Lynne loves to bring plenty of character into the mix and is not afraid of colour," says Stacy. In the timeless white kitchen, for example, a powder-blue island makes a punchy statement.

The overall effect is an eclectic shabby chic look that's relaxing and inviting – ideal for the Jameses' frequent gatherings of family and friends. "It's a casual look that appears as though it has evolved over time," says Stacy. And with an ever-growing family, it will no doubt continue to do so.

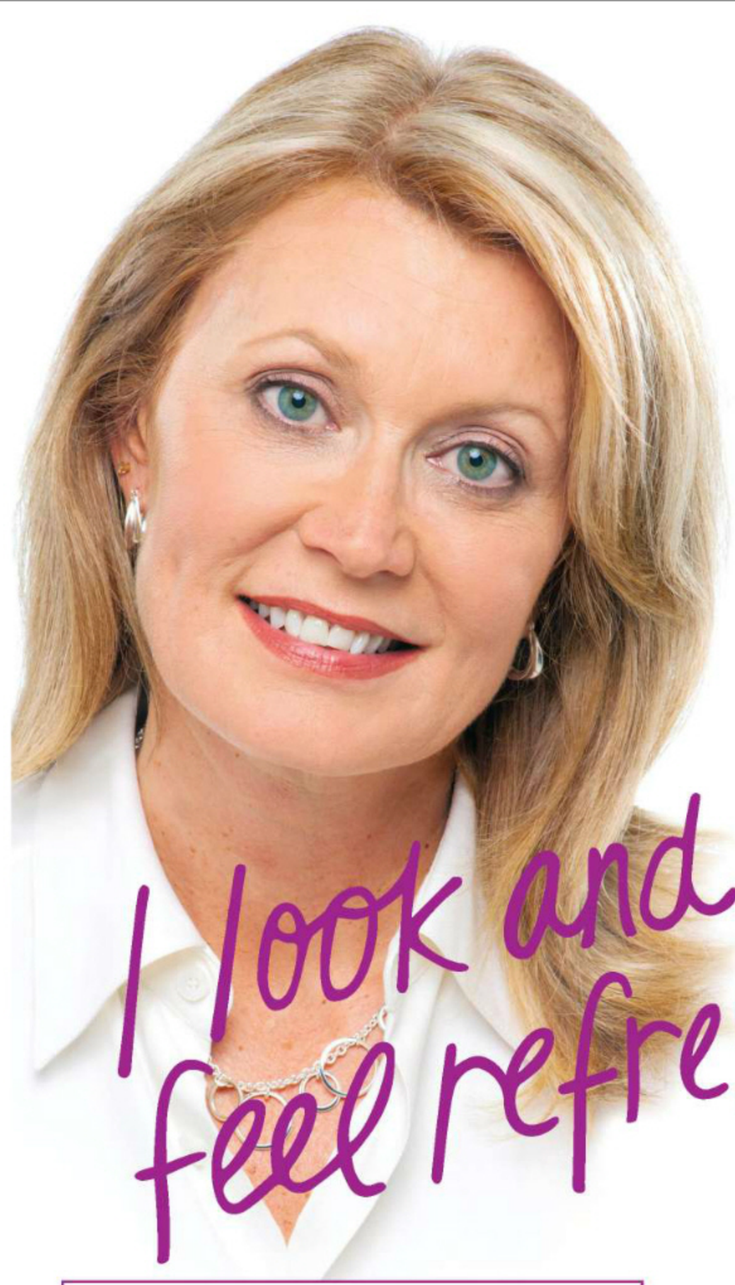
FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



BELOW An oversized apron sink hides any accumulation of dishes in the cottage-style kitchen. Mini schoolhouse-style pendant lights tie in with the powder-blue island and lend retro charm to the room.

BELOW, LEFT A vintage bedroom set was revived from disrepair; Lynne had it sprayed white for daughter Shauna's room. A pink chenille coverlet from Lynne's collection brings a hit of happy colour.

Ivory White CC-130 **WALL PAINT,** Timid White OC-39 **FURNITURE PAINT,** Benjamin Moore.



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*In addition to JUVÉDERM®, the women in these photos received a cosmetic injectable to treat the eye area and forehead. Treatments in photos performed by Dr. Vince Bertucci. Actual treatment results may vary.

1. Pinsky M.A., Thomas J.A., Murphy D.K., *et al.* Juvéderm injectable gel: a multicenter, double-blind, randomized study of safety and effectiveness. *Aesthet Surg J.* 2008; 28:596-597.

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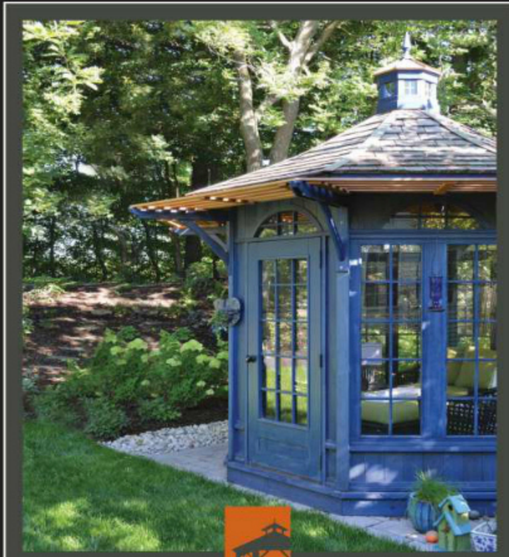

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TEXT LESLEY YOUNG

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

1 TWO PEAS IN A *pod*

Inspired by a beloved wallpaper, homeowner Jessica Waks designs a charming nursery for her one-year-old twins, Jack and Charlie.

BALANCED BOOKS The colourful wallpaper – a collage of iconic early Penguin book covers – was the starting point for the twins' nursery. "I fell in love with its whimsical vintage sensibility. Plus, I've always loved classic literature," says Jessica. Since it's a busy pattern, she limited it to a feature wall and repeated only three hues – periwinkle, navy and orange – in the decor.

CUBBY CENTRAL Storage was important because Jessica had selected the smallest bedroom for the nursery before knowing she was having twins. And while the designated space sports a decent-sized closet, she still chose a highly functional dresser with cubbies for easy access to baby supplies and a top that works as a change table.

Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Osborne & Little Penguin Library **WALLPAPER,** Primavera; **CRIBS, DRESSER,** Mother Hubbard's Cupboards; swivel **GLIDER,** Rooms to Grow; Lulu DK Child for Schumacher Skittles **WINDOW COVERING FABRIC** in Blueberry & Sky, Bilbrough & Co.; **WINDOW COVERING SEWING,** Wesley Seto Design; **QUILT, CRIB SHEETS, WALL SHELVES,** navy canvas **STORAGE BUCKET,** Pottery Barn Kids; **CRIB SKIRTS,** Serena & Lily; **RUG, STORAGE BASKETS** (in dresser), The Land of Nod; watercolour animal **PRINTS,** Mary's Flower Garden; custom **FRAMING,** PI Fine Art; **LUMBAR CUSHION FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **MOBILE,** Needlenerd; wooden Hebrew **BLOCKS,** L'il Niblets; deer, giraffe (on dresser) and zebra **PLUSH TOYS,** Advice From a Caterpillar; orange **TOY CAR,** Elte.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

DOUBLE-DIPPING The budget Jessica had for decorating the nursery took a huge hit when she found out twins were on the way. She saved money by confining the wallpaper to one surface and creating inexpensive art with prints purchased from Etsy. "This allowed me to invest in worthwhile custom blackout drapery and a swivel glider that can be used somewhere else in the future," she explains. Jessica inherited the stunning antique chandelier from her late grandmother.

decorating advice

"Be playful but practical. Try to inject some imagination but, at the same time, if something isn't functioning the best it can for you and your babies, it's not worth it."

The wall-mounted shelves provide a rotating display of favourite titles.

2 DOUBLE-DECKER *fun*

Style at Home contributing design editor Christine Hanlon goes bold when decorating the shared cottage bedroom of her daughter, Sophie, 10, and son, Henry, 7.

SEEING SPOTS Christine wanted to bring a playful gender-neutral energy to the bedroom shared by her two kids on cottage weekends. "I found the dark grey and white polka-dot bedding at IKEA and immediately fell in love with it. The pattern is youthful but not too sweet," she says. While Christine didn't have Dalmatians in mind at first, she "went with it" by accenting with plush dog toys after the theme materialized.

BUDGET BUYS Since this is a second home, Christine didn't want to commit to any expensive kid-specific furnishings. For example, she repurposed a lovely wood-trimmed suitcase found curbside into a nightstand. "It's the perfect height and width for a shared nightstand because the bunk beds are quite low to the ground," she explains.

Stylish staples like the industrial-look light fixture and bold striped rug mature the space.

FUN FUNCTION These bunk beds make perfect sense for this room for several reasons. "They're incredibly affordable and remarkably sturdy – the kids use them like a jungle gym," says Christine. And when she's hosting other families at the cottage, the bunk beds are an ideal sleep solution.

Blackened 2011 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; Wythe Blue HC-143 **FLOOR PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **BUNK BEDS, BEDDING, STOOLS, RUG,** IKEA; **PENDANT LIGHT,** The Home Depot.

decorating advice

"Decorate kids' rooms without making major commitments. In less than an hour, I could give this space a completely different look on a relatively small budget."

PHOTOGRAPHY: STACEY VAN BERKEL

3 PRETTY PINK *palace*

Designer Jenifer Glover transforms the greyish blue room of her daughter Gabriele, 15, into a teen escape that packs a whole lot of punch in fuchsia.

PINK POW When Jenifer's daughter Gabriele told her that she wanted her recently renovated grown-up room to be pink, Jenifer gave her three paint chips to choose from. "She picked this strong fuchsia, and I couldn't believe how much it livened up the space," says Jenifer. Because of its exuberance, however, she restricted it to a feature wall.

CUSTOM CREATIONS Since the entire home was undergoing a renovation, Jenifer opted to raise the ceiling in Gabriele's room, add a second skylight and extend one wall by two feet to accommodate built-in storage. The shelving units on either side of the bed perfectly fit the tight, sloped space.

TIDY TRICK Jenifer chose to furnish the room with simple white pieces. "Kids tend to have a lot of things – a lot of bright and colourful things. It can be really overwhelming to the eye, so I wanted to make sure the furniture provided a clean backdrop."

DESIGN, J.G. Interiors, jginteriors.com; Wimborne White 239 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; Crushed Berries 2076-30 **ACCENT WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **BEDDING,** Pottery Barn Kids; **DESK,** West Elm; **DESK CHAIR,** G.H. Johnson's Trading Co.; **POUFFE, RUG,** Y & Co.; *Mother and Child* **ARTWORK** by Susan McLean Woodburn, Art Interiors; **MIRROR,** paint palette **TRAY,** Elte; **PENDANT LIGHT,** IKEA.

decorating advice

"Invest in pieces that will offer the most flexibility, as well as ones that will grow along with your child. This way, you're not having to buy new furniture at each stage."

PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHAEL GRAYDON; STYLING, ANN MARIE FAVOT & MORGAN LINDSAY

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4 HARDY BOYS hideout

Despite building a brand new four-bedroom house, homeowner Remy Lang creates a whimsical room with a nostalgic heart for her son, Max, 5.

SETTING SAIL "It felt vintage, almost '70s, to me," says Remy of the Cath Kidston sailboat wallpaper, the starting point for the decor in her son's room. "I really loved it and had family bring it back from the U.K." The retro-style pendant light and classic rib-knit pillowcase continue the nostalgic vibe, while the striped bedding and zigzag rug keep the look fresh and modern.

SAVING SOLUTIONS Remy saved a lot of money by having her builder create a built-in bed frame out of plywood and trimming it with moulding. "I couldn't find a bed in our price range, and this was a great solution – it only cost me $150," she says.

PLAYFUL PLAN The canvas teepee, a gift from Max's grandmother, provides him with ample fun. "It does double duty as storage for books and toys when he's not playing in it," says Remy. She also hung one utilitarian black sconce above the bed, skipping the need for a nightstand and table lamp.

A mini Eames-style chair makes a surprising masculine statement

Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; striped **DUVET COVER,** West Elm; **BED SHEETS, PILLOWCASES,** Au Lit Fine Linens; **RUG,** Urban Outfitters; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Restoration Hardware; **SCONCE,** Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.

decorating advice

"Keep it simple – you can always add later. And as soon as your kids are old enough, involve them in a few of the design choices. It makes it more fun for everyone."

PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL GRAYDON; STYLING: CHRISTINE HANLON

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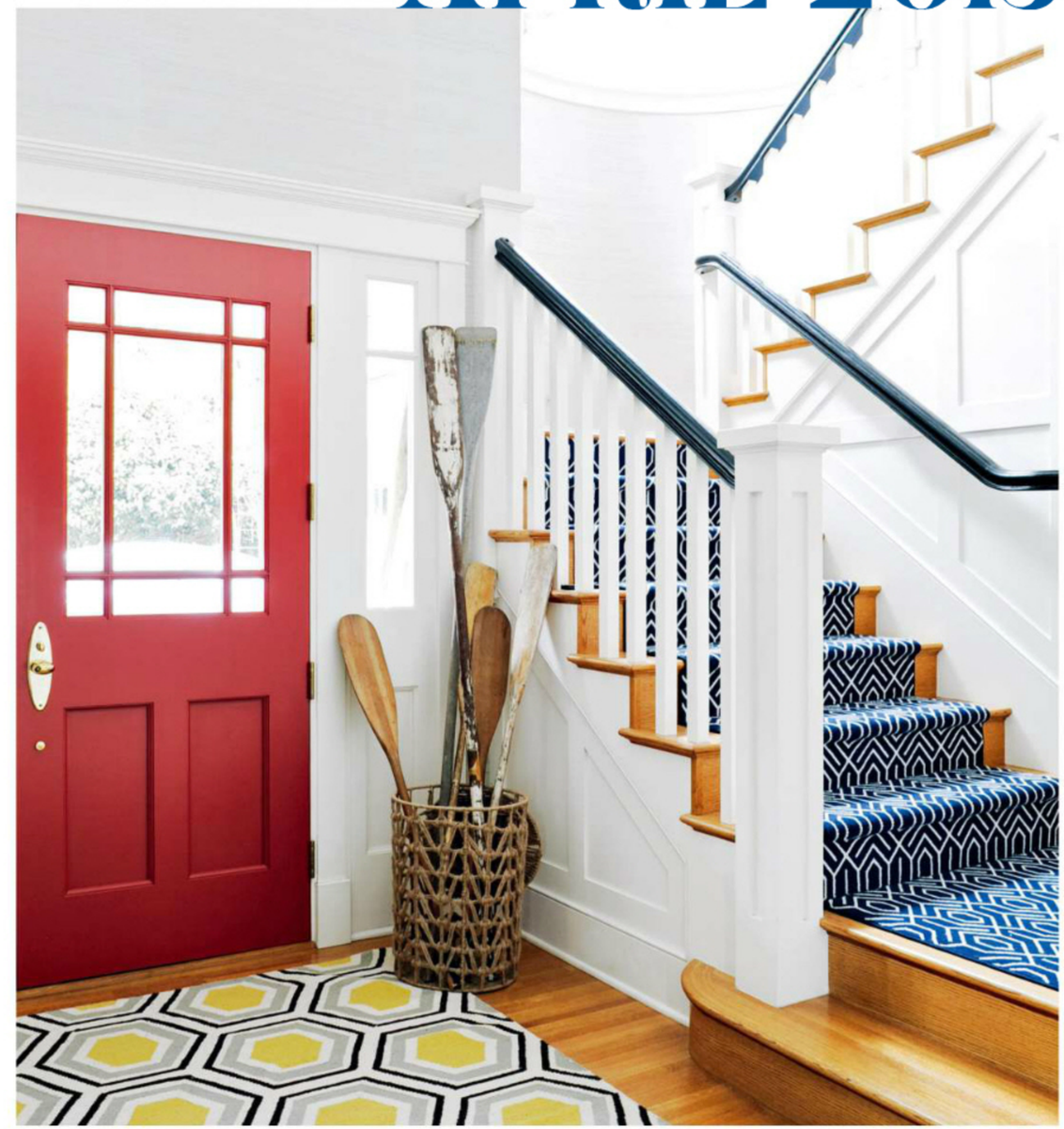
APRIL 2015



PHOTOGRAPHY, TRACEY AYTON; DESIGN, FOX DESIGN STUDIO, FOXDESIGNSTUDIO.CA

STRONG STATEMENTS

Right now we're energized by a striking combination of bold patterns, punchy colours and thoughtful accessories – judicious accents that add life to a neutral backdrop. It's a foolproof formula that strikes the perfect balance between totally tame and wonderfully wild. So tap into your inner decorista and get your mix on!

LAYER WITH TEXTURE

A Vancouver-based design and renovation firm turns the tide on a fussily furnished seaside house, re-envisioning it as an inviting, livable retreat with crisp colours and ship-shape style.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** TRACEY AYTON

NATURAL NEUTRALS + NAUTICAL NOTIONS = SEASIDE SOPHISTICATION

The family room's sectional was custom made with a low profile so that it wouldn't impede the stunning view. Its warm grey tone grounds the space.

DESIGN, Fox Design Studio, foxdesignstudio.ca; custom **SECTIONAL,** PlaidFox; custom **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Fabricana Home.

OPPOSITE, TOP "The family room is all about the stone fireplace and the driftwood coffee table," says Dave Leavitt, general manager of Fox Design Studio. "They share an organic sensibility that brings the beauty of the landscape in and represents the tranquility of the beach and all of its colours."

ARMCHAIRS, COFFEE TABLE, PlaidFox; custom **DRAPERY & TOSS CUSHIONS,** Fabricana Home; **RUGS,** Costco; resin **ANTLERS,** Restoration Hardware.

From the outside, this West Vancouver beach house has it all. Poised among the breathtaking North Shore Mountains on almost an acre of waterfront property, with nary a neighbour in sight, its position 100 feet above sea level provides it with optimal views of the ocean – a real-life Arcadia just 20 minutes from downtown. Its pre-makeover interior, however, presented a different tableau. "It hadn't been touched in 15 years," says Dave Leavitt, general manager of Vancouver's Fox Design Studio. "It was pink with overstuffed furniture and Persian rugs everywhere. It didn't feel like a beach house or reflect its amazing setting."

Dave and his team of designers – brother Ben Leavitt and friend Andrew Harvey – were tasked with transforming the 7,000-square-foot space into a comfortable weekend retreat. The busy homeowners, a couple from Langley, B.C., had purchased the fully furnished residence 10 years ago as a place where they could welcome their two children and, in recent years, three grandchildren. "They liked the convenience of a getaway with ready-to-go furnishings but, in reality, it wasn't working," says Dave. "We had previously overhauled the husband's animal hospital, and he liked our work, so he called us to update the house."

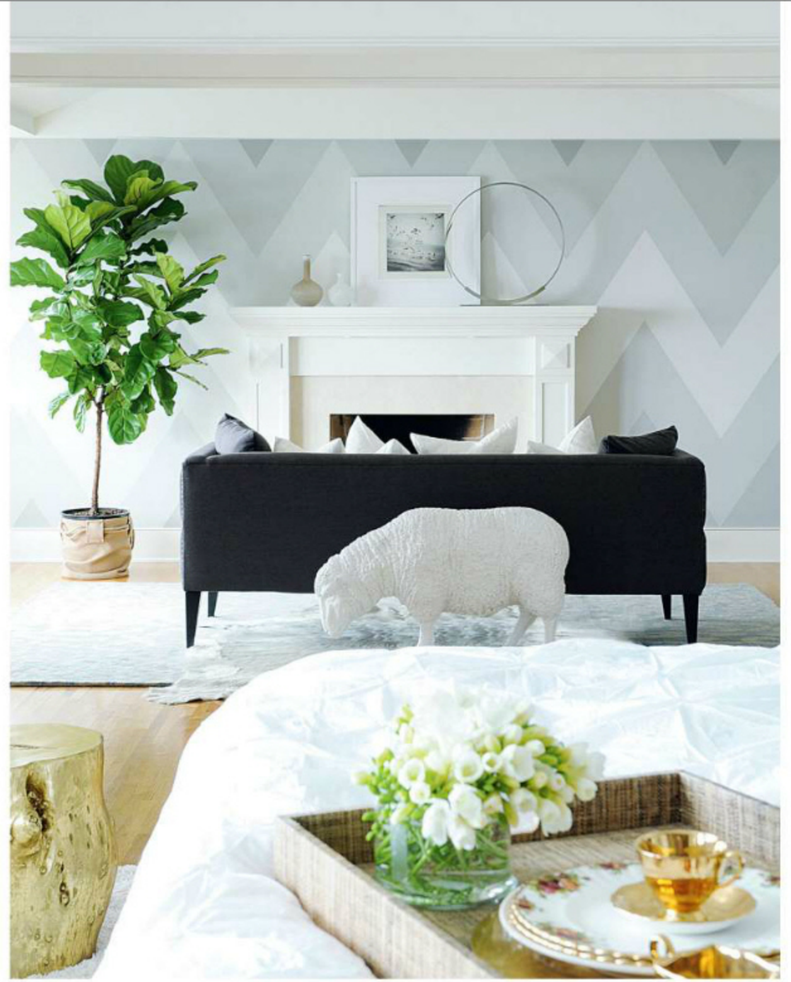
Since its architectural bones (hardwood floors, generously proportioned light-filled rooms and custom mouldings and built-ins) required no reshaping, the four-month revamp was strictly cosmetic, although it was anything but small. "Huge changes were required to make it look like a beach house," says Ben. "We had to refinish all

ABOVE The traditional white kitchen, with its recessed panel cabinetry and detailed mouldings and corbels, is freshened up with black bistro-style stools and pendant lights.

STOOLS, PENDANT LIGHTS, Restoration Hardware; **RUNNER,** PlaidFox; **TEA TOWEL, BASKET,** HomeSense; **DISHWARE, NAPKINS, FLATWARE,** Anthropologie.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT A whimsical chandelier crafted from old pop bottles was the starting point for the kitchen's eat-in area. "A breakfast nook should never be too fancy," says designer Ben Leavitt. "This fixture is very casual but has all the sparkle of a chandelier." Navy and white upholstered chairs offer a crisp nautical-inspired look that suits the home's seaside setting.

DINING TABLE, Restoration Hardware; custom **DRAPERY & TOSS CUSHIONS,** Fabricana Home; **CHANDELIER,** PlaidFox.



LEFT A feature wall hand-painted by designer Andrew Harvey defines the master bedroom's sitting area. The whimsical sheep sculpture, originally peach-coloured, was painted white and chosen with the owners in mind. "They love animals," says Dave, "so we thought this would be a nice touch. It's also great here because the back of the sofa is seen from the bedroom, and this transforms it."

SOFA, RUGS, ARTWORK, sheep **SCULPTURE, PLANT POT, VASES,** PlaidFox.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT The spectacular ocean view can be enjoyed from the clawfoot tub or the window bench in the master ensuite.

Custom **BENCH CUSHION,** Fabricana Home; **VASE,** PlaidFox.

RIGHT & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM "A master bedroom should look relaxing," says Dave, "so we typically don't use bold colours, but rather textures and patterns." The custom nightstands feature reclaimed railway posts that provide a rustic counterpoint to the show-stopping ceiling. "We highlighted the domed ceiling above the bed by silver leafing it. It took more than 20 hours to do but was worth it, since the shimmery finish creates depth and drama."

CEILING SILVER LEAFING, Candise Wilde; **BED FRAME, ARMCHAIR, NIGHTSTANDS,** gold trunk **SIDE TABLE, MIRRORS,** PlaidFox; **BEDDING,** West Elm; custom **DRAPERY & TOSS CUSHIONS,** Fabricana Home; **RUG,** Costco; **SCONCES,** Restoration Hardware.

the flooring and paint or wallpaper every nook and cranny." And they were ruthless, replacing the old furniture with custom pieces and keeping next to nothing apart from the front door, which they painted as well.

Paint, not surprisingly, played a pivotal role in establishing the seaside vibe the designers were after. "To reference the surrounding water and rocks, we chose navy and grey," says Dave. "We painted every room, except the navy blue office, in Thunder by Benjamin Moore. We diluted it with white paint to create a paler shade – it's one of our secret weapons, a perfect grey that's not too blue or green, just rich and warm." Grasscloth accent walls in the living room and master bedroom amp up that warmth while blending in with ease. "Grasscloth is a great way to add natural texture," says Ben.

The designers drew the line when it came to the original salmon pink marble fireplace surrounds in the living and family rooms. "No question," says Dave. "Those just had to go." Replaced with locally quarried stone, the surrounds look like they've always been there. "The fireplaces and the new decor are equal parts bold and relaxing." Much like the setting itself, which this home now perfectly reflects inside and out.

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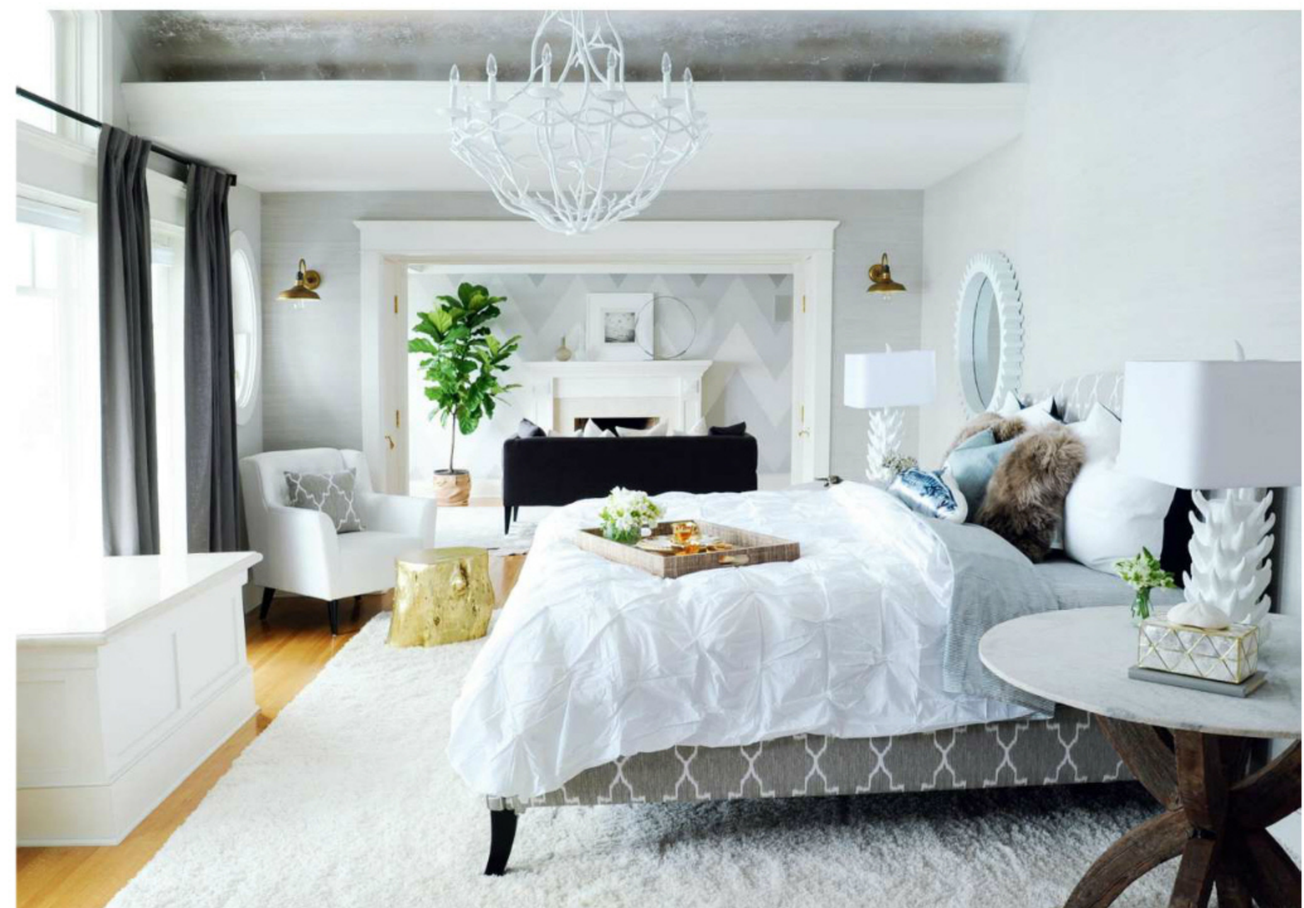


experiment with ACCESSORIES

An eclectic mix of colour, pattern and texture is perfectly fitting for this blended family's first home.

TEXT SARA CATION
PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY BRANDFORD
STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

BOLD CONTRAST + EXOTIC TOUCHES = MODERN ECLECTIC

OPPOSITE A collection 25 years in the making, the grouping of new and vintage vases atop the living room fireplace mantel was the jumping-off point for the space's palette. "I used to be a stylist, and I inherited a few vases from photo shoots," says homeowner and designer Shirley Meisels. "I'm drawn to the sculptural quality of their various shapes, so ever since then I've bought whatever catches my eye." She removed all the white ones for a saturated dose of colour – you'll find them on the top shelf in the kitchen.

DESIGN, MHouse, mhouseinc.com; Chantilly Lace OC-65 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; juju feather **HEADDRESS,** Snob; wooden **SIDE TABLE, TABLE LAMP** (with linen-coloured shade), HomeSense.

This is the story of a lovely lady,

bringing up one very lovely girl, who met a man – no, not named Brady – who was busy with a boy and girl of his own. Fast-forward from falling in love to finding their dream house and (on much more than a hunch, as the song says) moving into their first blended-family home together, thus becoming a brand new bunch.

"We were keen to move in and begin our life together," says homeowner and designer Shirley Meisels (of MHouse design firm) about wanting to find a place that required only minor renovations. So when, three years ago, they found this spacious three-storey Edwardian house in midtown Toronto, Shirley and her partner, Mitch Altman, were sold on the home's original mouldings and coffered ceiling as well as the fact that it had been modernized by its previous owners.

Before Shirley and her daughter, Lili, 11, could move in with Mitch and his kids, Noah, 12, and Maddie, 10, the three-bedroom home needed a facelift and, most important, another bedroom. The previous owners had knocked down a second-floor wall, turning the floor's three bedrooms into two, so Shirley simply had the wall replaced and the third bedroom restored so each kid could have his or her own. The third floor – formerly a small bedroom and a den – saw the largest transformation, becoming a master bedroom with a walk-in closet and dramatic master bath for Mom and Dad.

But the fun part for this designer was delving into the decor. For an airy space with flourishes of sunny colours, Shirley had the dark oak mouldings and walls painted white. "I wanted it to feel bright and cheerful," she says.

LEFT Elegant and stately yet warm and eclectic, the entryway sets the mood for the rest of the home.

Custom **CABINET,** Millworx; **CONSOLE,** IKEA; **CONSOLE HARDWARE, RUG,** Elte; **RUNNER,** eFloor; **MIRROR,** Decorium; white **TABLE LAMP,** HomeSense.

TOP Black, white, wood and metal – the glam neutral palette repeated throughout the house – is punched up with winks of colour, such as the vintage green painting here in the living room.

Chandelier Series **ARTWORK** by Daniel Schneider, Art Interiors; Cauda Equina **ARTWORK** by Keith W. Bentley, Lonsdale Gallery; gold **PITCHER,** Zara Home; black **PITCHER,** Suite 22 Interiors.

Circular shapes, in everything from the furnishings to the accessories, keep the eye moving around the living room. "The space is long and narrow, and the roundness creates a more cozy and intimate, cocoon-like seating area at the front of the house," says Shirley. Cheerful colour is introduced through accents, such as the striking chartreuse ombré drapery that lends a fun, sun-kissed look – even on dreary days.

SOFA, Elte; Schumacher Antibes Chevron **ARMCHAIR FABRIC** in Jet, Bilbrough & Co.; **COFFEE TABLE,** Zig Zag; **SIDE TABLE,** blue and green **TOSS CUSHION,** white dot **ARTWORK,** West Elm; Designers Guild Saraille **DRAPERY FABRIC** in Acacia, Primavera; **RUG, FLOOR LAMP,** EQ3; custom **TOSS CUSHIONS,** MHouse; **BOWL,** Crate and Barrel; black **VASE,** IKEA.

Bright? Check – just look at the way the sun streams into every main-floor room, embraced by the white walls and bounced around by the metallic accents. Cheerful? Double check – especially in the living room, where happy colours like chartreuse, turquoise and grape playfully intermingle. "I tend to go for colours that are disparate but alike at the same time," says Shirley. "They're all connected by their grey undertone. You'll almost never find me using primary colours." Used throughout the house are pattern and texture to boot. Bold wallpapers and textured fabrics just beg to be touched, lending the space an eclectic liveliness that complements the quiet elegance of its architecture.

"It's not so much the style, but the flow that makes a home comfortable," says Shirley. "And here, though everyone's carved out their own space, we're all still together." Indeed, life here as a blended family is harmonious. On any given night, Noah is on the computer in the kitchen, and Maddie might be drawing in the eat-in area or watching a movie with Lili in the living room. And with a view of everyone from the cozy armchair in the eating nook, Shirley takes it all in while Mitch cooks dinner – which the new, now complete, bunch will enjoy together at the dining table. It's too bad, though, that they don't have a live-in maid named Alice to clean up after the feast.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

LEFT The multi-functional eat-in area off the kitchen sees a lot of action: It's where the kids have breakfast and do their homework, it's where Shirley sets out food when entertaining, and it's her favourite place to relax at day's end.

Perforated-metal **PENDANT LIGHT,** Universal Lamp; vintage "Eat" **SIGN,** Queen West Antique Centre.

Since her previous kitchen was all white, Shirley changed things up with dark walnut lower cabinetry here. "It suits the sophisticated old architecture of this house," she says. Besides refacing the lower cabinets, Shirley had the uppers removed in favour of airy open shelving and added the textured porcelain backsplash. The layered whites – warm on the countertop, cool on the walls and mixed in her collection of vases on the top shelf – keep the space from looking too stark.

CABINETRY, Millworx; **COUNTERTOP,** Caesarstone Canada; **BACKSPLASH TILES,** Mettro Source; **GLASSES,** Crate and Barrel; **TRAYS,** Pimlico.

OPPOSITE, TOP Central to the largely open-concept first floor, the dining room acts as a hallway between the living room, kitchen and eat-in area, so Shirley kept the space neutral with black, white and wood. "The coffered ceiling and graphic artwork were all the texture it needed," she says. The family of five eats here nightly, and Shirley loves that there's ample space for extra tables to comfortably seat up to 30 people without knocking elbows.

DINING TABLE, Avenue Road; *Black and White* **ARTWORK,** Jason Schwartz; **CHANDELIER,** Urban Mode; brass **SCONCE,** Union Lighting and Furnishings; **VASE** (on table), Crate and Barrel.

play WITH PATTERN

Brave hits of colour and pattern beautifully collide in this happy-glam Georgian home.

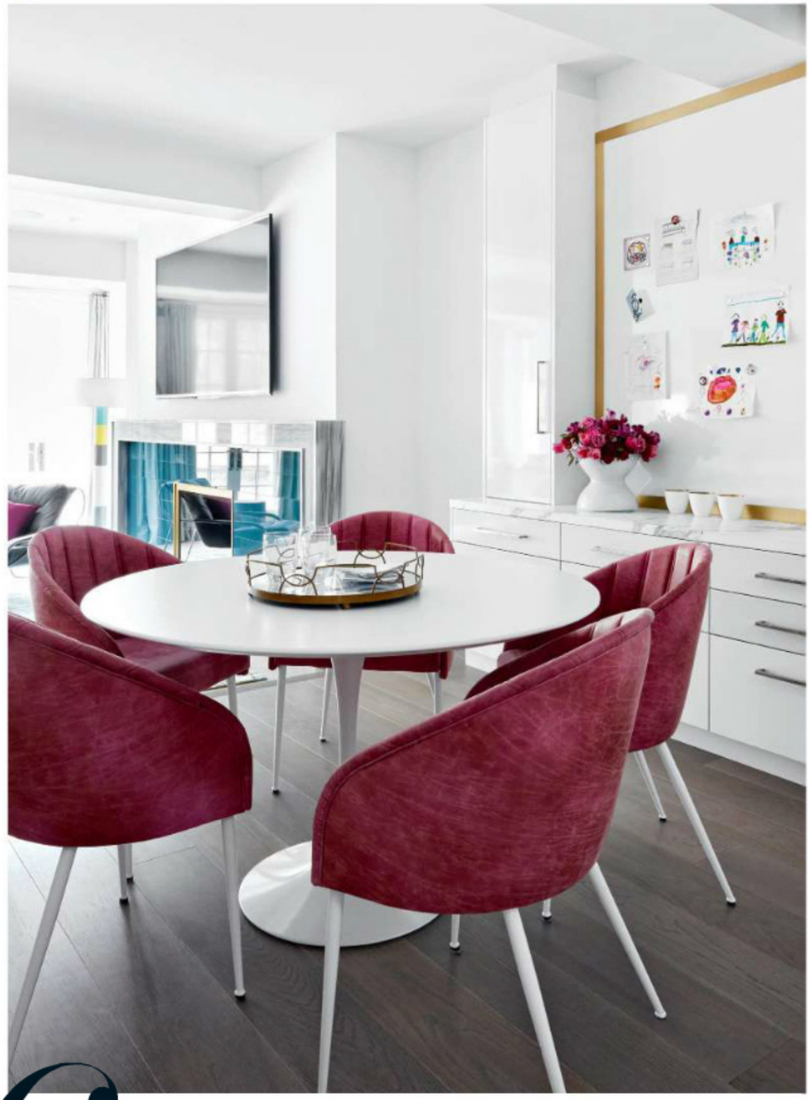
TEXT IRIS BENAROIA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD

STYLING ANNE MARIE FAVOT & CHRISTINE HANLON

FEMININE FLAIR + SOFT SHADES = YOUTHFUL ELEGANCE

"My colour rule for this house was continuity," says designer Tara Fingold. "Because we used a cranberry hue in the dining room, we carried it into other rooms so it wouldn't be jarring to the eye." Shades of pink intermingle here, from the zippy ikat-print drapery to the two-toned dining chairs done in velvet and vinyl.

DESIGN, Tara Fingold Interiors, tarafingold.com; **CONTRACTING,** Troke Contracting; Phillip Jeffries Basket Case **WALLPAPER** in Soft Graphite, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; **DINING TABLE,** Avenue Road; Starburst **DINING CHAIR FABRIC** in Blossom (seats), Kravet Canada; Showtime **DINING CHAIR FABRIC** in Currant (backs), Robert Allen; Groundworks Kelly Wearstler Bengal Bazaar **DRAPERY FABRIC** in Magenta, Lee Jofa; **RUG, VASES, CANDLESTICKS, SERVING BOWL, TRAY,** Elte.



ABOVE Sassy and sophisticated, the white and gold kitchen is anything but expected. In fact, when the contractor initially saw the range hood, he called Tara in a panic. "I rushed over there," she says. "He said to me, 'The hood, it's a square box! You didn't mean to do this, did you?' I replied, 'Yes. It's perfection.'"

Custom **RANGE HOOD,** Tara Fingold Interiors; small white **BOWL** (holding cherries), Elte.

ABOVE, RIGHT The dark rose-coloured chairs in the kitchen's eat-in area are covered in easy-to-clean vinyl. A huge white magnetic board bordered in brass adds bling and serves as a spot to showcase the kids' artwork, while a puff of pink flowers keeps the look cohesive and fresh.

DINING CHAIRS, ISA International; Starburst **DINING CHAIR FABRIC** in Blossom, Kravet Canada.

Can

we finally agree that pink is not for little girls alone? Although primarily paired with princesses, it can also be very sophisticated – and pretty fun. Take this gracious 1920s Georgian home that Tara Fingold designed for a young family of five in Toronto's Forest Hill neighbourhood: Shades of pink are everywhere. The dining room's oversized Windsor chairs with dusty rose seats have Mad Hatter appeal; the entryway's psychedelic artwork flaunts corals that mingle well with other hues; and punches of cranberry are repeated throughout the house.

Tara's client didn't need convincing. After all, this is a woman who had a pink bedroom in her previous home – and has an easygoing husband. "They were up for anything! This really was a once-in-a-lifetime project," says Tara of the 4,000-square-foot three-storey house filled with pattern, texture and eclectic artwork for an upbeat feel.

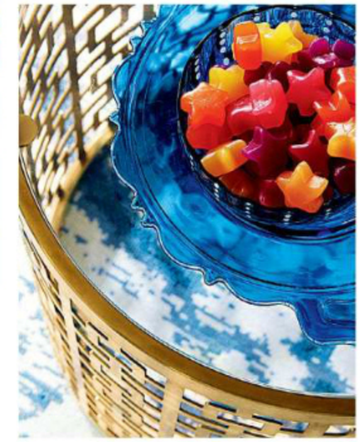
Glamorously decked out with bold expanses of Statuario marble and hints of brass, the clean-lined kitchen is dramatic even though it's mostly white – save for light pink glassware on one of the floating shelves, in keeping with Tara's theme of colour continuity.

FAUCET, Ginger's; **BOWL** (on island), **CANDLESTICKS,** Elte; Staub **DUTCH OVEN,** Zwilling J.A. Henckels.

"I LOVE ALL THE COLOUR IN THIS HOUSE. IT MAKES ME SMILE WHEN I WALK IN AND INSTANTLY PUTS ME IN A GOOD MOOD."

The splashy rug was Tara's starting-off point for the living room. From there, custom light blue paint went on the walls and subtle sky blue grasscloth wallpaper was applied to the ceiling to add unexpected texture. The branch-like base of the coffee table and the cut-outs on the side table are idiosyncratic touches. The dark rose linen drapery riffs off the retro-cool sidechairs.

Phillip Jeffries grasscloth Soho Hemp **WALLPAPER** in Blue & Grey (on ceiling), Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; custom **SOFA,** Tara Fingold Interiors; cut-out **SIDE TABLE, TABLE LAMP,** blue **BOXES, VASE** (on side table), Elte; Dusk Sheer Glazed **DRAPERY FABRIC** in Burst, Threadcount Textile & Design; **RUG,** Dominion Rug & Home; *Flower Field* **ARTWORK** (above fireplace), Césan d'Ornellas Levine.



LEFT & FAR LEFT The living room is largely blue with hits of pink to connect it to the other spaces throughout. "I love all the colour in the house," says one of the homeowners. "It makes me smile when I walk in and instantly puts me in a good mood."

BELOW Playful yet elegant, the entryway exudes an eclectic vibe. The spunky Windsor settee is covered in hard-wearing blue vinyl. Heated marble-inlay floors are a luxurious touch. The homeowners were inspired to buy the framed cowhide artwork after seeing it in a photo of comedian Chelsea Handler's office.

Hide Shift **ARTWORK,** Kyle Bunting.

The couple and their children – two boys, ages nine and seven, plus a five-year-old girl – previously lived in a smaller dwelling that they quickly outgrew. When they found this corner-lot house with great bones, "I fell in love with it right away," says one of the homeowners.

Though the home has a traditional footprint (a series of closed-off rooms), its wide hallways and generous spaces make it feel airy. The only open-concept area – the family room flowing into the kitchen – is a total knockout. "I wanted to create a timeless kitchen that could have been in the house in its original days, back in the '20s," says Tara.

Gatsby would approve. Glamorous brass inlays on the cabinetry are rich details that add definition. A heavy use of Statuario marble – with its distinctive veining – energizes the space. And for something different, floating shelves dart right across the windows. "I didn't want conventional uppers," explains Tara of the look that defies design rules. "And I needed more display space because the homeowners have such beautiful pieces." (Plus, the view isn't that great, since the window faces a brick wall.)

"The kitchen was the hardest room for me to finalize with Tara," says one of the homeowners, who didn't initially want to go white. "Nothing was speaking to me – I couldn't commit to a colour on the cupboards," she says. "However, the brass detailing adds character, making the kitchen look a little more unexpected."

As it turns out, though it's not the largest room in the house, the kitchen is well loved. The kids huddle around the island to bake with Mom, and the family enjoys most meals at the white Tulip table in the eat-in area – perched happily on pink seats, of course.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

RECIPES MOLLY WATSON

PHOTOGRAPHY JOSEPH DE LEO

Perfect Pairings

If you're like us, right about now you may be feeling like your New Year's resolution to eat healthfully has gone off the rails. To the rescue comes *Greens + Grains*, which combines one of each (at least) in every delicious recipe. From soups to salads, patties to pancakes, you'll be getting your nutrients – and enjoying them, too!

EXCERPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM *GREENS + GRAINS* BY MOLLY WATSON, CHRONICLE BOOKS, $29.95

BASIC GREENS & GRAINS SOUP

SERVES **4 TO 6**

- 1 cup whole grains, such as quinoa, barley, farro, spelt, wheat berries, rye kernels or brown rice, rinsed
- 2 tsp sea salt
- 10 oz greens, such as chard, kale or spinach
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Place the grains and salt in a medium pot and cover generously with water. Bring to a boil over high heat; reduce the heat to a simmer and cook until the grains are tender to the bite (from 15 minutes for quinoa to up to 60 minutes for rye kernels). Drain and set aside.

If using greens with thick stems like chard or kale cut the stems from the leaves. Trim the stems and finely chop them, then cut the leaves into thin ribbons; keep the stems and leaves separate. If using greens without thick stems, chop the leaves into ribbons or bite-sized pieces.

Heat the oil in a soup pot over medium-high heat. Add the stems (if using) and cook, stirring frequently, until they're soft, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and stir to combine. Add the chicken broth and cooked grains and bring just to a boil. Add the greens, stir to combine and cook until wilted and tender, just 1 to 2 minutes for spinach, 5 minutes for chard and up to 10 minutes for kale. Season with salt and serve warm with a grind or two of pepper.

NOTE: This soup is open to all kinds of experimentation. Try adding 2 cups or one 14- to 15-oz can beans, such as cannellini beans, chickpeas or romano beans, with the cooked grains. Or drop a Parmesan rind into the broth while the greens simmer and garnish with more freshly grated cheese. You can also use chopped onion, chopped celery and chopped carrot with or in place of the greens' stems.

basic greens & grains soup

wild rice salad with kale, pecans & blueberries

WILD RICE SALAD WITH KALE, PECANS & BLUEBERRIES

SERVES **4 TO 6**

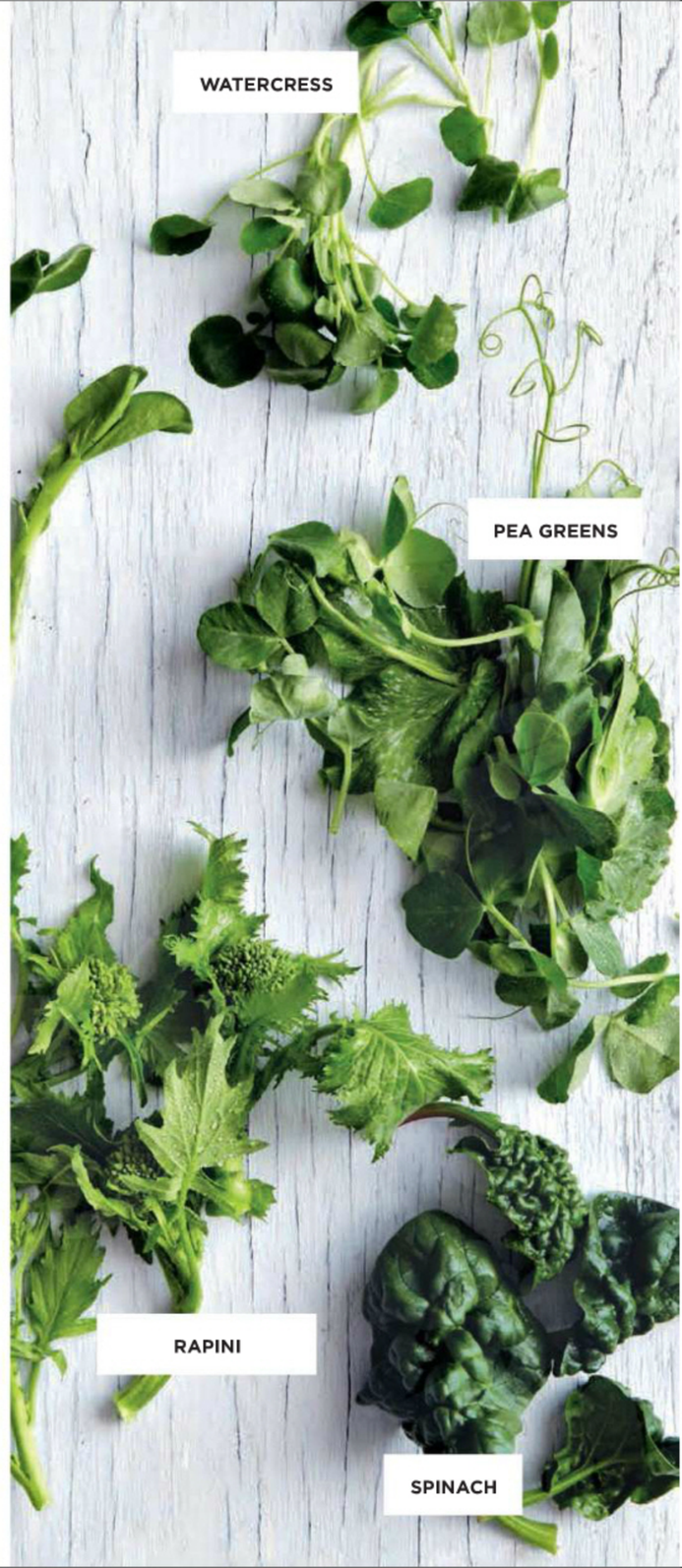
- 1½ cups wild rice
- 1 cup raw pecans
- 6 large kale leaves
- 3 tbsp walnut, pecan or vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp brown rice vinegar
- 2 tsp brown sugar
- ½ tsp fine sea salt
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 red or yellow bell pepper, cored, seeded and chopped
- 4 green onions, finely chopped
- 1 cup fresh blueberries

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the wild rice and cook until tender to the bite, about 45 minutes. Drain, rinse with cold water and set aside to cool.

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 350°F. Lay the pecans in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet and bake until toasted, about 10 minutes. (Watch very carefully – nuts go from toasted to burnt in the blink of an eye.) Let the pecans cool, then roughly chop them; set aside.

Trim and discard the thick stems from the kale, then chop the leaves. Use your hands to squish handfuls of the leaves until they soften and turn a darker shade of green; set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, brown sugar, salt and pepper. Add the cooked rice and toss to coat. Add the kale, bell pepper and green onions and toss again. At this point the salad can be kept, covered and chilled, for up to 2 days. Add the blueberries and pecans just before serving – toss the salad to combine them or use them on top as more of a garnish for a prettier presentation.



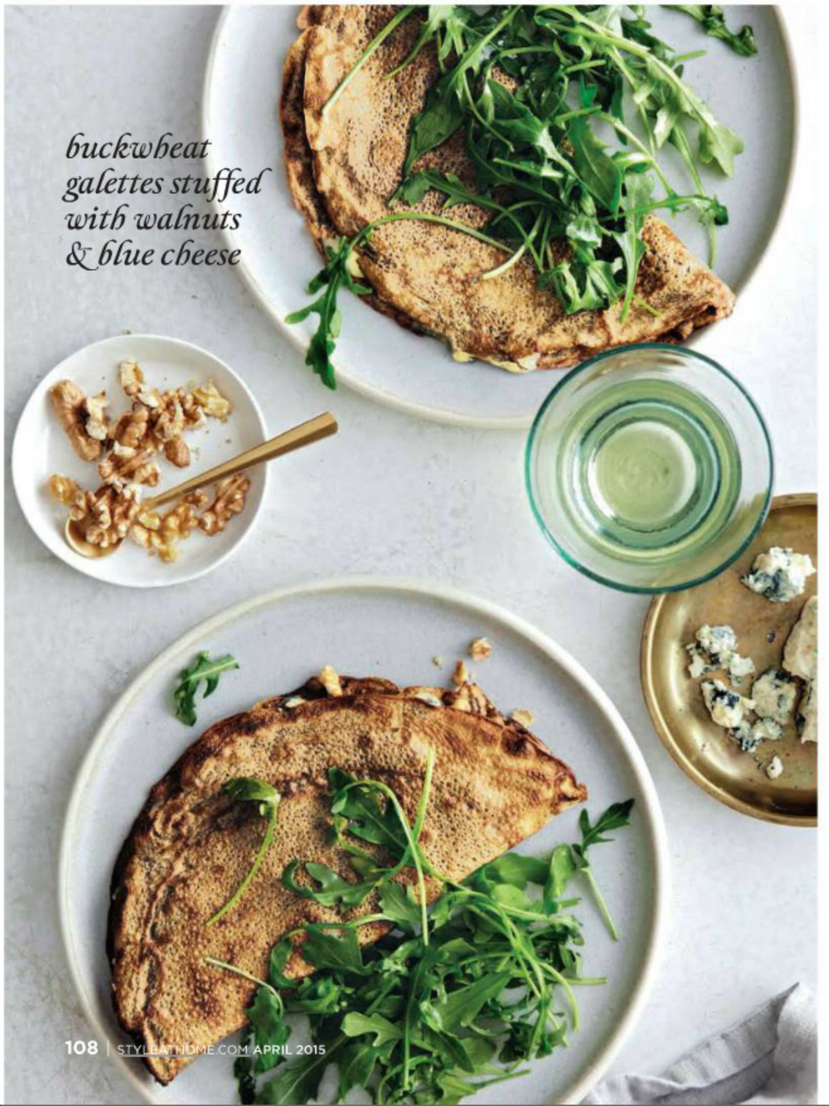
BUCKWHEAT GALETTES STUFFED WITH WALNUTS & BLUE CHEESE

MAKES **12 GALETTES**

- 2 cups 2% milk
- 8 tbsp unsalted butter, divided
- 1 tsp fine sea salt, divided
- 1 tsp granulated sugar
- 1 cup flat beer
- 4 eggs
- 1½ cups whole wheat pastry flour
- ¾ cup buckwheat flour
- 3 tbsp grapeseed or canola oil
- 1 tsp champagne vinegar
- ½ tsp ground mustard
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 6 handfuls arugula leaves
- 1 cup walnuts
- 12 oz blue cheese

In a small saucepan, warm the milk, 6 tablespoons butter, ½ teaspoon salt and the sugar over medium heat until the butter melts; remove from the heat and let cool slightly.

Pour the milk mixture into a blender; add the beer and blend thoroughly. Add the eggs and blend. Add the pastry flour and buckwheat flour and blend again. Cover and chill the mixture for 2 hours or up to 2 days.



In a large bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, mustard, pepper and remaining ½ teaspoon salt. Place the arugula on top and set aside (don't toss yet!).

In a large frying pan over medium-high heat, toast the walnuts. Cook, stirring frequently, until the walnuts start to darken and smell a bit more nutty. (Watch them carefully – nuts go from toasted to burnt in the blink of an eye.) Remove from the heat. Let the walnuts cool, then coarsely chop them; set aside.

Heat a 10" frying pan over high heat. Once the pan is hot, lower the heat to medium and add about ½ teaspoon of the remaining butter, allowing it to melt. Ladle in about ¼ cup of the batter, swirling the pan to completely coat the bottom. Cook, undisturbed, until bubbles form on top of the galette and the bottom is browned, about 1 minute. Use a thin spatula or table knife to make sure the edges aren't sticking, then flip the galette. Shake the pan vigorously to make sure the galette doesn't stick. Cook until browned, 1 minute more.

To fill the galette, spread 1 ounce of the blue cheese and just more than 1 tablespoon of the walnuts on half the galette after you flip it. Once it's cooked through, fold the galette over the filling. Transfer the galette to a plate and repeat with the remaining butter and batter.

You can layer parchment or waxed paper between the cooked galettes as you stack them, but I find they stack and come apart quite nicely if kept at room temperature. (If you want to freeze them, however, be sure to use paper to separate them.)

Just before serving, toss the arugula with the dressing at the bottom of the bowl to coat. Put a portion of dressed arugula on top of or alongside each galette. Serve while the galettes are hot.

NOTE: If you've never made crepes or galettes, know that the first one most likely won't turn out. Worry not. There is enough batter for 13 or 14, so you can mess up a few. For thin crepes with lacy browning, be sure to let the batter rest – this allows the flour to fully absorb the moisture and time for any air bubbles to get out of the way. To speed the process of getting a silky smooth batter, I try to use flat beer, but if you've just opened the bottle, that's okay – just avoid adding any foam.

style, etc.

Each issue, assistant editor Brittany Devenyi compiles the best decorating ideas, DIY projects, book reviews, where-to-buy info and more from our pages.

STYLE NEWS

project of the month FROM PAGE 25

Looking for a creative way to decorate your Easter eggs? Try our modern update on a traditional favourite.

THE STORY

then The act of decorating eggs during springtime is said to date as far back as the 13th century. The most notable creations are Ukrainian pysanky: dyed eggs featuring highly intricate folk art designs that are drawn in beeswax.

now Our modernized versions of the classic art form, which is typically done in dark, bold colours, boast bright pastel hues and simplified graphic designs. We used the original wax-resist method – the technique of applying multiple layers of wax and dyes – but we experimented with fun geometric shapes, squiggly lines, floral patterns and typography.

THE MATERIALS

working area ✓
Make sure the area is well lit. Cover your work surface with newspaper, and have a roll of paper towels handy.

kistka ✓
The kistka is a stylus tool (consisting of a metal funnel attached to a wooden or plastic handle) that allows you to draw with melted wax. Find it online at pysanky supply stores.

candle ✓
A short candle is ideal so you don't have to reach up high every time you need to heat the kistka.

beeswax ✓
Beeswax stays liquid longer, is more pliable and adheres better than other types of waxes.

eggs ✓
Use hollowed-out extra-large chicken eggs at room temperature. The shells should be smooth and unblemished.

spoons ✓
You'll need tablespoons for dipping the eggs into each dye.

dyes ✓
Mix dyes according to package instructions in clean wide-mouthed jars and bring to room temperature.

egg drying rack ✓
A rack is used to dry the eggs as well as hold them while you work. You can make one by drawing a 1" grid on a ½"-thick piece of foam core. Place a pin at each point where the lines intersect.

THE INSTRUCTIONS

basic steps
(FOR 1 COLOUR)

1. Heat the funnel of the kistka directly in the flame of the candle. When hot, scrape the beeswax into the funnel, filling it; heat the funnel in the flame again. Touch the tip of the kistka to the egg, letting out some wax, and begin to draw a design using long, even strokes. (The waxed lines will remain white when the egg is dyed.) Heat and refill the tool as required. Set the egg on the rack for a few minutes to let the wax harden fully.

2. Place the egg on a spoon and completely submerge it in the dye. After 5 to 10 minutes, remove the egg and pat it dry with a piece of paper towel (do not rub). Let the egg dry fully on the rack.

3. Remove the wax by carefully holding one side of the egg just above the candle flame for 2 to 3 seconds (it'll look wet). Wipe clean with a piece of paper towel. Repeat until all the wax is removed.

additional steps
(FOR 2 OR MORE COLOURS)

If using multiple colours, make sure to start with the lightest and progress to the darkest. After finishing step 2 above, use the wax to cover the areas you want to keep in their current colour, following the technique outlined in step 1. Complete step 2 again. Do step 3 once you are done adding colours.

PRODUCER, STEPHANIE HUNG; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

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The results are in! Here's how our style council voted on this issue's topic:

COLOUR

YOUR COLOUR *preference*

36% CHOOSE **ELEGANT** *greys, whites & blues*

7% GREEN

YOU WOULD NEVER **PAINT YOUR WALLS**

14%	17%	28%	34%
WHITE	YELLOW	RED	BLACK

42% FIND COLOUR INSPIRATION IN MAGAZINES

THE MOST COLOURFUL ELEMENT IN YOUR HOME

70% ACCESSORIES

23% WALLS

7% FURNITURE

PRODUCER, ELAINE SONG; PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY BRANDFORD (CABINET), JOE KIM/TC MEDIA (LANTERNS)

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